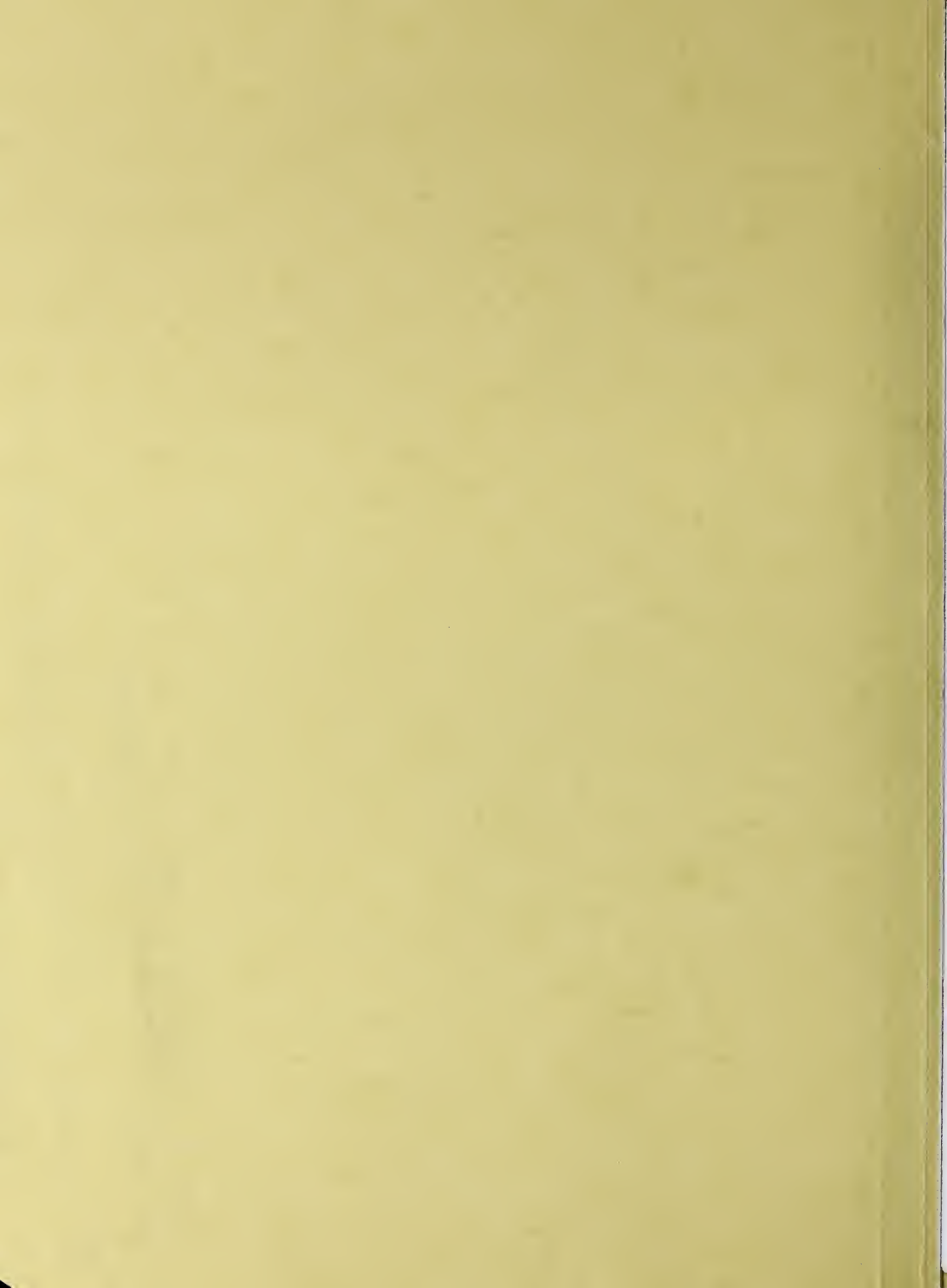


WEDDINGS (Nov. 4, 1842)

Drawer 2

MARY TODD-YOUTH

71.2007 085 04422



Mary Todd Lincoln

Wedding

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

The State of Illinois,

SANGAMON COUNTY, SS.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS---GREETING:

Know Ye, that License and Permission has been granted to any Minister of the Gospel, authorized to marry by the Church or Society to which he belongs; any Justice of the Supreme Court; Justice of any Inferior Court, or any Justice of the Peace, to Celebrate and Ratify the Marriage of

Abraham Lincoln & Mary Todd

now both of this county, according to the usual custom and laws of the State of Illinois.

Witness, N. W. Matheny, Clerk of the County Court, in and for the County of Sangamon, and the Seal of said Court hereunto affixed at SPRINGFIELD.

this 4th day of November A.D. 1842

N. W. Matheny

Clerk.

State of Illinois, }
Sangamon County, } ss.

I Certify that, on the 4th day of November

1842 I joined in the Holy State of Matrimony *Abraham Lincoln*
Mary Todd according to the custom and laws of Illinois

Witness under my Hand and Seal, this 4th day of November

25 1842

Charles Drexler M. C. C.

Mrs. Lincoln's Wedding Ring.

Springfield Journal,

The friends found Mrs. Lincoln's wedding ring. This ring she had worn almost constantly since her marriage; but recently her finger had swollen, and she had taken it off. It is of Etruscan gold, and is now quite thin from wear. It is inscribed with: "A. L. to Mary, November 4, 1842. Love is eternal." The ring was picked up, and burned with her. There having been less or more curiosity as to the value of Mrs. Lincoln's estate, it is probably not improper to say now, that the United States bonds belonging there, amount to \$74,000. This is apart from whatever personal effects she may have.

7/20/1882



SKETCHES OF LINCOLN.

The Missing Bridegroom---Disappointed Bride.

THE UNTOUCHED WEDDING SUPPER.

Speed Takes Lincoln to His Home in Kentucky—His Correspondence With Speed Restored Spirits—Coldness With Mary Passing Away—Gaining Confidence.

[From "The Life of Lincoln" by William H. Herndon and Jesse W. Weik. Copyright, 1888, by Jesse W. Weik. Copyright, 1892, by D. Appleton & Co.]

XIII.

The time fixed for the marriage was the 1st day in January, 1841. Careful preparations for the happy occasion were made at the Edwards mansion. The house underwent the customary renovation, the furniture was properly arranged, the rooms neatly decorated, the supper prepared and the guests invited. The latter assembled on the evening in question and awaited in expectant pleasure the interesting ceremony of marriage. The bride, bedecked in veils and silken gown and nervously toying with the flowers in her hair, sat in the adjoining room. Nothing was lacking but the groom. For some strange reason he had been delayed. An hour passed, and the guests as well as the bride were becoming restless. But they were all doomed to disappointment. Another hour passed, messengers were sent out over town, and, each returning with the same report, it became apparent that Lincoln, the principal in this little drama, had purposely failed to appear! The bride, in grief, disappeared to her room, the wedding supper was left untouched, the guests quietly and wonderingly withdrew, the lights in the Edwards mansion were blown out, and darkness settled over all for the night. What the feelings of a lady as sensitive, passionate and proud as Miss Todd were can only imagine—no one can ever describe them. By daybreak, after persistent search, Lincoln's friends found him. Restless, gloomy, miserable, desperate, seemed an object of pity. His first Speed among the number, fearing a permanent, watched him closely in their rooms day and night.

"Knives and razors and all the instruments that could be used for self destruction were removed from his reach." Mrs. Edwards did not hesitate to regard him as insane, and of course her sister Mary shared in that view. But the case was hardly so desperate. His condition began to improve after a few weeks, and a letter written to his partner Stuart on the 23d of January, 1841, three weeks after the scene at Edwards' house, reveals more perfectly how he felt. He says: "I am now the most miserable man living. If what I feel were equally distributed to the whole human family, there would not be one cheerful face on earth. Whether I shall ever be better, I cannot tell. I awfully forebode I shall not. To remain as I am is impossible. I must die or be better, as it appears to me. I fear I shall be unable to attend to any business here, and a change of scene might help me. If I could be myself, I would rather remain at home with Judge Logan. I can write no more."

Taken to Kentucky.

During all this time the legislature to

which Lincoln belonged was in special session, but for a time he was unable to attend. Toward the close of the session, however, he resumed his seat. He took little if any part in the proceedings, made no speeches and contented himself with answers to the monotonous roll call and votes on a few of the principal measures. After the adjournment of the legislature his warm friend Speed, who had disposed of his interests in Springfield, induced Lincoln to accompany him to Kentucky. Speed's parents lived in a magnificent place a few miles from Louisville. Their farm was well stocked, and they, in the current phrase, "lived well." Thither he was taken, and there amid the quiet surroundings he found the "change of scene" which he told Stuart might help him. He was living under the cloud of melancholia and sent to the Sangamon Journal a few lines under the gloomy title of "Suicide." They were published in the paper, and a few years since I hunted over the files, and coming across the number containing them was astonished to find that some one had cut them out. I have always supposed it was done by Lincoln or by some one at his instigation.

Speed's mother was much impressed with the tall and swarthy stranger her son had brought with him. She was a God fearing mother, and besides wishing to lighten his spirits gave him a Bible, advising him to read it and by adopting its precepts obtain a release from his troubles which no other agency, in her judgment, could bring him. "He was much depressed. At first he almost contemplated suicide." But the congenial associations at the Speed farm, the freedom from unpleasant reminders, the company of his staunch friend, and, above all, the motherly care and delicate attentions of Mrs. Speed, exerted a marked influence over him. He improved gradually, day by day gaining strength and confidence in himself, until at last the great cloud lifted and passed away. In the fall he and Speed returned to Springfield. At this point, as affording us the most reliable account of Mr. Lincoln's condition and views, it is proper to insert a portion of his correspondence with Mr. Speed. For some time Mr. Speed was reluctant to give these letters to the world. After some argument, however, he at last shared my view that they were properly a matter of history.

Lincoln as a Consoler.

The first of these letters is one he gave Speed when the latter started on his journey from Illinois to Kentucky. It bears no date, but was handed him Jan. 1, 1842, as Speed has testified in another letter to me that he left Springfield on that day. It is full of consolation and advice how best to conduct himself during the periods of gloom which it appears Speed himself had when he was courting his wife. "I know," he says, "what the painful point with you is at all times when you are unhappy. It is an apprehension that you do not love her as you should. What nonsense! How came you to court her? Did you court her for her wealth? Why, you say she had none. But you say you reasoned yourself into it. What do you mean by that? Was it not that you found yourself unable to reason yourself out of it? Did you not think, and partly from the purpose, of courting her the first time you ever saw her or heard of her? What had reason to do with it at that early stage? There was nothing at that time for reason to work upon. Whether she was moral, amiable, sensible, or even of good character, you did not nor could then know, except perhaps you might infer the last from the company you found her in. Say candidly, were not those heavenly black eyes

the whole basis of all your reasoning on the subject? After you and I had once been at the residence, did you not go and take me all the way to Lexington and back for no other purpose but that you might see her again on your return on that evening to take a trip for that express object?"

The next paragraph is significant as affording us an idea of how the writer perhaps viewed Miss Todd's flirtation with Douglas: "What earthly consideration," he asks, "would you take to find her scolding and despising you and giving herself up to another? But of this you need have no apprehension, and therefore you cannot bring it home to your feelings."

Feb. 3 he writes again, acknowledging receipt of a letter dated Jan. 25. The object of Speed's affection had been ill, and her condition had greatly intensified his gloomy spirits. Lincoln proffers his sympathy. "I hope and believe," he continues, "that your present anxiety about her health and her life must and will forever banish those horrid doubts which I know you sometimes felt as to the truth of your affection for her. If they can once and forever be removed (and I almost feel a presentiment that the Almighty has sent your present affliction expressly for that object), surely nothing can come in their stead to fill their immeasurable measure of misery."

More Words of Comfort.

The next letter, Feb. 13, was written on the eve of Speed's marriage. After assurances of his desire to befriend him in everything he suggests: "But you will always hereafter be on ground that I have never occupied, and consequently, if advice were needed, I might advise wrong. I do fondly hope, however, that you will never again need any comfort from abroad. I incline to think it probable that your nerves will occasionally fail you for awhile, but once you get them firmly graded now that trouble is over forever. If you went through the ceremony calmly, or even with sufficient composure not to excite alarm in any present, you are safe beyond question, and in two or three months, to say the most, will be the happiest of men."

Meanwhile Lincoln had been duly informed of Speed's marriage, and on the 25th he responds: "Yours of the 16th, announcing that Miss Fanny and you are 'no more'—but one flesh, reached me

no way of telling me. I wish you both, or both can conceive it, jealous of both of you now. You will be so exclusively concerned for one another that I shall be forgotten entirely. I shall be very lonesome without you. How miserably things seem to be arranged in this world! If we have no friends, we have no pleasure, and if we have them we are sure to lose them and be doubly pained by the loss."

Speed having now safely married, Lincoln's mind began to turn on things nearer home. His relations with Mary Todd were still strained, but reminders of his period of gloom the year before began now to bring her again into view. In a letter to Speed March 27 he says:

"It cannot be told how it thrills me with joy to hear you say you are 'far happier than you ever expected to be.' That much, I know, is enough. I know you too well to suppose your expectations were not at least sometimes extravagant, and if the reality exceeds them all I say, 'Enough, dear Lord.' I am not going beyond the truth when I tell you that the short space it took me to read your last letter gave me more pleasure than the total sum of all I have enjoyed since that fatal 1st of January, 1841. Since then it

seems to me I should have been entirely happy but for the never absent idea that there is one still unhappy whom I have contributed to make so. That kills my soul. I cannot but reproach myself of even wishing to be happy while she is otherwise. She accompanied a large party on the railroad cars to Jacksonville last Monday and on her return spoke, so that I heard of it, of having enjoyed the trip exceedingly. God be praised for that!"

A Bit of Sentiment.

Meanwhile the coldness that existed between Lincoln and his "Mary" was gradually passing away, and with it went all of Lincoln's resolution never to renew the engagement. In a letter, July 4, he says: "I must gain confidence in my own ability to keep my resolves when they are made. In that ability I once prided myself as the only chief gem of my character. That gem I lost, how and where you know too well. I have not regained it, and until I do I cannot trust myself in any matter of much importance. I believe now that had you understood my case at the time as well as I understood yours afterward, by the aid you would have given me I should have sailed through clear, but that does not now afford me sufficient confidence to begin that or the like of that again. I always was superstitious. I believe God made me one of the instruments of bringing Fanny and you together, which union I have no doubt he had fore-ordained. Whatever he designs he will do for me yet. 'Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord,' is my text just now. If, as you say, you have told Fanny all, I should have no objection to her seeing this letter, but for its reference to our friend here let her see it depend upon whether she has ever known anything of my affairs, and if she has not do not let her. I do not think I can come to Kentucky this season. I am so poor and make so little headway in the world that I drop back in a month of idleness as much as I gain in a year's sowing."

The last letter, and the one which closes this series, was written Oct. 5, 1842. In it he simply announces his "duel with Shields," and then goes on to "narrate the particulars of the duelling business, which still rages in the city."

Another of the Lincoln Circle Dead.

DULUTH, Minn., Sept. 24. Mrs. J. H. Brown of Springfield, Ill., died here yesterday at the age of seventy-two years. She was one of the historical characters of Illinois. She was a loyal friend of Abraham Lincoln, to whom she was distantly related, and was one of Mary Todd's bridesmaids when the latter became the wife of Mr. Lincoln. After Lincoln became President Mrs. Brown was a frequent caller at the White House. Mrs. Brown recently completed her "Reminiscences of the White House," which will appear in a magazine during the year.

Sept 1895

A number of the early friends of Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd are denying the story told by Mr. Herndon of the non-appearance of Lincoln at the hour first fixed for the marriage of the pair. In the April McClure's there is given a good deal of testimony of intimate friends, which appears to make it very plain indeed that Mr. Herndon expanded into a spacious romance the truth that the engagement was broken at one time by Lincoln, although never in such a violent and public fashion as Lincoln's law partner seems to have fancied. The circumstantial tale about Mary Todd waiting in her "silken gown" in vain for her bridegroom is denied by one of her sisters who is still living in these words: "I never was so amazed in my life as when I read that story. Mr. Lincoln never did such a thing. Why, Mary Lincoln never had a silk dress in her life until she went to Washington." The rage for personalities, carries small biographies far afield. But it is not well for their goal to carry them too far afield while witnesses to the truth and people knowing all about the story are still in the land of the living to refute such myth-making.

Transcribed 3-21-16

MARY TODD LINCOLN.

REMINISCENCES AND LETTERS OF THE WIFE OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

BY EMILY TODD HELM.

McClures, Sept. 1898, V. 11-5



COMPARATIVELY little is known concerning the family history of Mary Todd Lincoln, although the press of the country has recorded much that has not been agreeable for her friends and relatives to read, often giving totally erroneous ideas of her; and thus the public has insensibly been prejudiced against her. Her ancestry can be traced to a long line of men distinguished in the early history of Pennsylvania and other States. She was related to the families of Parker, Bodley, Owens, McFarland, Findlay, Major, and Porter, of Pennsylvania. Her great grandfather, General Andrew Porter, was the close friend of Washington. The Porters furnished Pennsylvania with a governor, and two of them filled cabinet positions.

What is known of the Todd family is honorable. Of the covenanters captured at Bothwell Bridge, two hundred and fifty were sentenced to be transported to America. Two hundred of these were drowned in a shipwreck off the Orkneys; fifty escaped, and afterward took part in the defense of Londonderry. Among those drowned were Robert Todd of Fenwick and James Todd of Dunbar. In 1679, the same year in which these two were drowned, John Todd, their brother, fled from the persecutions of Claverhouse in Scotland, and sought refuge in Down County, Ireland. In 1720 his son Robert Todd (born in 1697) came with his family from Ireland to Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, where he died in 1775. His first wife died before he left Ireland, but he married Isabella Hamilton in America. The mother of Robert Todd was Isabella Parker. Many families of note in Pennsylvania were related to her.

John Todd, son of the above Robert Todd, graduated at Princeton in 1749, located in Louisa County, Virginia, and became so distinguished as a Presbyterian minister, scholar, and educator, that it has been said, that no history of the Presbyterian Church in Virginia could be written without honorably of him. The father of this

John Todd, David Todd (the great grandfather of Mrs. Lincoln), was born April 8, 1723. He was a farmer, and in 1760 bought lands of the proprietors of Pennsylvania on the south side of the Phoenixville and Peckowen Bridge road, near a corner where his brother Robert Todd kept a store. In 1783 he sold his farm, receiving \$12,000 for it, and the next year removed to Kentucky, to join his sons Robert and Levi Todd. An older son, Colonel John, had been killed in a fight with the Indians at the Blue Licks, Kentucky, two years before; and it is said that it was because the mother grieved so at his loss and was so anxious to be with the sons who were left, that the removal from Pennsylvania was made. David Todd died in 1785, the year after he went to Kentucky.

His wife was Hannah Owens of Pennsylvania, daughter of Owen Owens. They had four sons, of whom one, Owen, settled in Ohio; and he, as well as the others, bore a brave part in the early Indian wars. The other three, John, Robert, and Levi Todd, were educated in Virginia, in a classical school taught by their uncle, the Rev. John Todd. The eldest, Colonel John Todd, studied law, and was the first civil governor and lieutenant-commander of what is now the great State of Illinois. His record or minute book is in the possession of the Chicago Historical Society, and forms an interesting chapter in the history of our country. England was forced to cede this rich country to the United States, as a fruit of the Revolutionary War, won by the valor of General George Rogers Clarke in 1778, and his valiant soldiers, who numbered among them the three Todd brothers. Upon Patrick Henry, the first Governor of Virginia, devolved the duty of appointing a lieutenant-commander of Illinois, and the man chosen for this responsible position (on the 12th of December, 1778) was Colonel John Todd. He had removed from Virginia to the County of Kentucky in 1775, and had become prominent in its house of delegates or representatives. In 1777 he was chosen to represent Kentucky in the General As-

sembly of Virginia, and in 1778 he and his brothers formed a part of the expedition to Illinois County.

For three years Colonel John Todd held his position as lieutenant-commander, devoting most of the time to its interest. In 1780 he was again chosen a delegate to the Virginia legislature. In this year Kentucky (county) was divided into three counties—Lincoln, Jefferson, and Fayette; and Thomas Jefferson, then Governor of Virginia, appointed Colonel John Todd Colonel of Fayette County; Daniel Boone, Lieutenant-Colonel; and Thomas Marshall, Surveyor. During the summer of 1782, an Indian invasion aroused the county, and the militia was summoned to repel it. Colonel Todd, as senior colonel, took command of the little army sent in pursuit of the retreating savages. This force included Daniel Boone and many illustrious Kentuckians. On the 18th August, 1782, they came up with the Indians at the Blue Licks, and one of the most disastrous battles to the whites ever fought on Kentucky soil followed. Colonel John Todd fell at the head of his men, shot through the body. Nearly one-half of the little army was killed or wounded. Among the wounded were his brothers, General Levi and General Robert Todd. General Robert Todd was wounded also in the defense of McClellan's Fort (now Georgetown, Kentucky), in 1776. He continued an active soldier all through the troubles with the Indians.

General Levi Todd, the third brother, was the grandfather of Mrs. Lincoln. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1756, studied law and surveying, and was one of the defenders of Harrod's Fort in Kentucky, and also assisted General Ben Logan to hold St. Asaph's at Stanford, Kentucky. He was lieutenant in George Rogers Clarke's campaign for the conquest of Illinois; was appointed Major, Colonel, Brigadier, and Major-General of the Kentucky forces. He died in 1807 at Lexington, Kentucky. His wife was Jean Briggs, a daughter of Captain Samuel Briggs, who was a brother-in-law of General Ben Logan and one of his fifty picked men.

A son of General Levi Todd, Robert Smith Todd, was the father of Mary Todd Lincoln. He was a merchant of considerable wealth, and was for many years president of a bank at Lexington, Kentucky. He served in both branches of the Kentucky legislature, and was a man of generous and refined nature, belonging to the old Virginia school and known throughout the State for his hospital-

ity. He served as captain in the War of 1812. His first wife was a daughter of Major Robert Parker of Lexington, Kentucky. His second wife was a daughter of Dr. Alexander Humphreys of Staunton, Virginia. Mary Todd Lincoln was but a child when this second marriage was made. Four of the brothers of Mrs. Lincoln entered the service of the Confederate States. One, Samuel Todd, was killed at the battle of Cerineth; another, Alexander Todd, aged twenty-three years, was killed at the battle of Baton Rouge; and a third, David Todd, received a bullet wound that, after a long illness, caused his death in 1866. The fourth brother was a surgeon, and is still living, at Barnwell, South Carolina. Three of Mrs. Lincoln's sisters are living: Mrs. Frances Wallace of Springfield, Illinois; Mrs. Margaret Kellogg of Cincinnati, Ohio; and Mrs. Ben Hardin Helm (widow of General Ben Hardin Helm, who was killed at Chickamauga, September 20, 1863) of Elizabethtown, Kentucky.

An interesting account of Mrs. Lincoln in her girlhood is given in the following passage from a letter written to me by Mrs. Elizabeth L. Norris, of Garden City, Kansas, September 28, 1895:

My first recollection of your sister Mary runs back to the time when your father lived on Short Street (Lexington, Ky.), before your sister Elizabeth married Ninian W. Edwards,* of Springfield, Ill. Mary Todd was then ten years old. I was in age between her and Frances (now Mrs. Dr. Wallace, of Springfield, Ill.), and while Frances and I were in harmony, I entered more into Mary's life. Mary was bright and talkative and warm-hearted. She was far advanced over girls of her age in education. She was a pupil of the celebrated Mr. Ward. He was a splendid educator; his requirements and rules were very strict, and woe to her who did not conform to the letter. Mary accepted the condition of things, and never came under his censure. We occupied the same room, and I can see her now as she sat on one side of a table, poring over her books, and I on the other, with a candle between. She was very studious, with a retentive memory and a mind that enabled her to grasp and thoroughly understand the lessons she was required to learn. Mr. Ward required his pupils to recite some of their lessons before breakfast. On a pleasant summer morning nature would hardly rebel; but what an ordeal to rise in winter by candle light and make the needful preparations to encounter the furious blasts! I have nothing but the most pleasant memories of her at that time. I never saw any display of temper or heard her reprimanded during the months I was an inmate of your father's home. Sixty-six years

* Ninian W. Edwards was the son of Governor Ninian Edwards, of Illinois. He was born April 15, 1809, near Frankfort, Kentucky. His father was at that time Chief Justice of Kentucky, but removed to Illinois the same year the son was born. Ninian Edwards was educated at Transylvania University, Lexington, Kentucky, where he met Elizabeth Todd, the eldest sister of Mrs. Lincoln, and she became his wife. His home was one of great hospitality. He served his State in a number of positions of honor. Mrs. Edwards was an exceedingly attractive woman. Her winning sweetness and gentleness of character have never been excelled, and have left an impression which is not likely to be forgotten.

ago children had few privileges. We had no amusements, no parties, nor books with charming little stories to stimulate us to acts of courtesy and kindness. Our standard library was the Bible and the Shorter Catechism, which we always carried to Sunday-school.

On one occasion Mary was with some young friends on a visit at Walnut Hills, near Lexington, Kentucky. They were startled by the report that Indians were approaching the house, and attempted to hide, each according to her impulse, under beds, in closets, anywhere, and Mary sought a refuge behind an old-fashioned screen that stood before an open fire-place. But feeling no safety there, she looked for a place of greater security, and not finding any to suit her, she stood in the center of the room and cried in a frantic tone: "Hide me, oh my Saviour, hide." It turned out that the Indians were only a friendly party and that there was no danger whatever.

Mrs. Norris writes further:

Mary and I each had a white dress, but Mary was not satisfied—they were too long and narrow. She liked pretty things, and wanted to be in the fashion. Hoops were worn at this time by women: not the steel ones—they came in later; but home-made affairs with small reeds, basted on the inside of the skirt, such as milliners used in drawn-silk bonnets. Properly worn, the effect of them was quite pretty. Mary admired them above all things, and was frantic for one; but it would have been an unheard of request to ask for it. After much worry and thought, she at last said, "Lizzie, I am going over to Mrs. Hostetter's and ask her for some of her weeping willows. We can make hoop-skirts and wear them to Sunday-school to-morrow." I agreed to it, and she put on her sunbonnet, and with a basket started on her errand. It was a long time before she returned, but she was abundantly supplied with the material, and deposited her basket with its precious burden in a closet in our room.

After tea we began our preparations. We seated ourselves upon the floor, and lost no time, but worked diligently. We were startled to find how late it was when my aunt (Mrs. Todd), on her way to her room, tapped on the door, telling us it was time to be in our beds. We did put out the light, and waited until we thought everybody was asleep; then we relighted our candle and worked until late in the night, when we hung up the finished garments with a thrill of delight. Our sleep was too short to be satisfactory, but we managed to get to breakfast in time. As soon as it was over, we rushed to our room. Mary was always quick in her movements, but now she made uncommon haste, and was dressed and out upon the street as I reached the front hall door. One moment and we would have been safe. But as fate would have it, Aunt caught a glimpse of me. One glance was enough to show her what we had been striving for. She reached the door in a second, and called Mary back. There we stood, a burlesque on vanity, as grotesque figures as eye need ever fall upon—in hoops that bulged in front and at the back, while they fell in at the sides, and with our narrow white dresses stretched over them to their utmost extent. We had basted the willows in just as they came off the tree, one end being very large and the other very small. Aunt looked us over from head to foot, and said, "What frights you

are! Take those things off, and then go to Sunday-school."

We went to our room chagrined and angry. Mary burst into tears, and gave the first exhibition of temper I had ever known her to make. She thought we were badly treated. I was angry, but did not express myself quite so freely. It is well our display was confined to our own premises. If we had gone to the McCord Church, as we were so anxious to do, the congregation would have been convulsed with laughter and aunt too much mortified to lift up her head.

From Mr. Ward's school Mary went to a select French school kept by Mrs. Montell. Here she remained for four years, going to the school each Monday morning and not returning to her father's house until Friday evening. Nothing but French was spoken in this school, and Mary acquired a thorough knowledge of the language. She never gave it up, and always read the best French authors in the original. It was here also that she learned to dance.

While in Lexington as a young lady, Mary Todd never seemed interested in or manifested any desire for attention, although she mingled freely with the best society. Her special friends were Miss Margaret Wickliffe, afterwards Mrs. General William Preston, and Miss Bodley, afterwards Mrs. E. B. Owsley of Louisville, Kentucky. In a home pervaded by every refinement, her life flowed on quietly, free from sorrow or bereavement. She had a plump, round figure, and was rather short in stature. Her features were not regularly beautiful, but she was certainly very pretty, with her lovely complexion, soft brown hair, and clear blue eyes, and intelligent bright face that, having once seen, you would not easily forget. She was singularly sensitive. She was also impulsive, and made no attempt to conceal her feelings; indeed it would have been an impossibility had she desired to do so, for her face was an index to every passing emotion. Without desiring to wound, she occasionally indulged in sarcastic, witty remarks, that cut like a damascus blade; but there was no malice behind them. She was full of humor, but never unrefined. Perfectly frank and extremely spirited, her candor of speech and independence of thought often gave offense where none was meant, for a more affectionate heart never beat.

In 1837 Mary paid a visit to her sister Mrs. Ninian W. Edwards at Springfield, Illinois. She remained there three months before returning to her father's home at Lexington. She was then just nineteen years of age. In 1839 she again visited Springfield. Her wit and affability, not less than

her varied accomplishments, impressed both old and young. In 1842 she was married to Abraham Lincoln.

There has been so much written and printed upon the subject of Mrs. Lincoln's marriage, that I will only say that Mrs. Lincoln's family had no knowledge of any want of faith or honor on Mr. Lincoln's part. Mrs. Dr. Wallace, Mrs. Lincoln's sister, who is still living in Springfield, positively asserts that there was never but one wedding arranged between Mary Todd and Mr. Lincoln, and that was the one that occurred. Mr. Herndon says that it was a large wedding, and that Mrs. Lincoln was married in a white silk dress. This is an error, and he must have confused Mrs. Lincoln's wedding with that of her sister, Mrs. Wallace, who was married a little before. Mrs. Lincoln, by preference, had a quiet marriage. Mrs. Wallace says that on a Sunday morning Mr. Lincoln and Mary Todd called Mrs. Edwards to where they were sitting, and told her they had decided to be married that evening. Mrs. Wallace was sent for, and she says that she never worked harder in her life than on that day. Only a few people were present—Mr. Dresser, the minister, held a short service in his church, and afterward went up to Mr. Edwards's house, where the marriage took place. There were present Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Edwards, Major and Mrs. John Todd Stuart, Dr. John Todd and family, Dr. and Mrs. Wallace, and Mr. and Mrs. Ninian W. Edwards. And the bride was clad in a simple white muslin dress.

As to the love affairs that Mr. Lincoln may have had or the offers he made of himself to others, Mrs. Wallace says that she does not know in regard to them. He may have had a misunderstanding with Mary Todd, but as the latter went to Springfield in 1839 and was married in 1842, there certainly could not have been so many love affairs as Mr. Lincoln's biographers enjoy giving him. Abraham Lincoln was a visitor at the house of Mr. Edwards before Mary Todd arrived at Springfield, and his well-known intimacy with her cousin, the accomplished John Todd Stuart,* and Mr. Joshua Speed at that time, speaks volumes in his favor as a promising man. Unless Mary Todd and Mr. Lincoln

* John Todd Stuart, one of the leading lawyers of Illinois, was a native of Kentucky. He graduated at Center College, Danville, studied law, and in 1828 located at Springfield. He was afterward a law partner of Abraham Lincoln and was major of a battalion in the Black Hawk War, where Abraham Lincoln commanded a company in the same battalion. He served in the Illinois legislature from 1832 to 1838, when he defeated Stephen A. Douglas for Congress. He served in Congress two terms, and then declined a reelection; but he was reelected in 1862 and served one term. He died November 30, 1883, aged 78 years.

mutually desired it, there would have been no reason for the marriage.

It has also been said that Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln were not happy. Mrs. Wallace denies this emphatically, and the present writer's knowledge bears out Mrs. Wallace's assertion. They understood each other thoroughly, and Mr. Lincoln looked beyond the impulsive words and manner, and knew that his wife was devoted to him and to his interests. They lived in a quiet, unostentatious manner. She was very fond of reading, and interested herself greatly in her husband's political views and aspirations. She was fond of home, and made nearly all her own and her children's clothes. She was a cheerful woman, a delightful conversationalist, and well-informed on all the subjects of the day. The present writer saw Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln together some part of every day for six months at one time, but saw nothing of the unhappiness which is so often referred to. Many of Mr. Lincoln's ways, such as going to answer his own doorbell, annoyed her, and upon one occasion a member of her family said, "Mary, if I had a husband with a mind such as yours has, I wouldn't care what he did." This pleased her very much, and she replied, "It is very foolish—it is a small thing to complain of."

Here are extracts from some letters written by Mrs. Lincoln to the writer of the present sketch:

PASSAGES FROM LETTERS OF MRS. LINCOLN.

Springfield, February 3, 1856.—"Mr. Lincoln has just entered and announced that a Speaker has at last been elected at Washington; that Mr. Banks is the happy man. They have had great trouble in their political world."

Springfield, November 23, 1856.—"Your husband, like some of the rest of ours, has a great taste for politics and has taken much interest in the late contest, which has resulted very much as I expected, not hoped. Although Mr. Lincoln is, or was, a Frémont man, you must not include him with so many of those who belong to that party, an abolitionist. In principle he is far from it. All he desires is that slavery shall not be extended, let it remain where it is. My weak woman's heart was too Southern in feeling to sympathize with any but Fillmore. I have always been a great admirer of his—he made so good a President, and is so good a man, and feels the necessity of keeping foreigners within bounds. If some of you Kentuckians

Repairing His Buggy with Hickory Strips —Applies Instead of Whisky—Small Fees for Services.

By Anthony Thornton.

I first saw Mr. Lincoln in December, 1850, in Vandalla, but after the removal of the capital from the Vandalls to Springfield I met him frequently, and became well acquainted with him. Lawyers then traveled "the circuit" on horseback, and for fifteen years or more, during the terms of the courts in the spring and fall, he was a familiar figure to the bar of central Illinois at the several terms of the courts in the counties of Christian, Shelby, Macon, Moultrie, Platt, Coles, and Edgar. I was associated often with him in the trial of suits, and we were frequently opposed to each other. The dockets were small and the fees smaller. During those years, besides their professional duties, the lawyers at almost every term of the courts engaged in political discussion, and Lincoln was ever ready for the fray.

Thus I had every opportunity to know the man and discover his characteristics. He was then an illiterate man, untrained in books, unlearned in history, and without much knowledge of polite literature. Yet he had a vast amount of common sense and a large sympathy for the common people. Between him and his audience there was a kindred feeling. He did not posture as a lawyer and pathos, like Linder, but he had an earnestness which denoted the strength of his inward convictions and the warmth of his heart. He was a good and safe lawyer and a reliable counselor.

Mr. Lincoln was a pure man, and abstemious in his habits. During years of familiar converse and intimate association I never heard him use profane language or indulge in vulgarity. He was "the circuit" almost every lawyer, as well as the Judge, had a bottle of whisky in his saddlebags. I never saw Lincoln with one, and never knew him to taste intoxicating liquor.

On one occasion he and I were appointed by the Judge to examine an applicant for admission to practice law. Usually the applicant was adjudged to furnish a bottle of wine or whisky preparatory to the examination. In this case Mr. Lincoln made the forfeit one-half bottle of apples.

When he was in repose "melancholy marked him for her own," yet he had a fine sense of humor, greatly appreciated a jest, and loved a good story more than any man I ever knew. Upon the adjournment of the evening he and Linder would entertain the listening crowd and make mirth abound, while "unheeded flew the hours." I never heard him address a jury or make a political speech that he did not tell one or more good stories, so apt and illustrative of his position that they constituted an argument in themselves. I well remember, in going from one county to another, we passed the farm of an old settler who had a good supply of capital stories. Lincoln would desert the company and stop with him, and thus increase his stock. He told a story admirably, and thus attracted the crowd.

As a lawyer he was unusually fair, and always courteous to Judge, lawyers, jury, and witnesses. On one occasion he and I were associated as counsel in an important lawsuit when he exhibited his love of right and fairness in a remarkable manner. John T. Stuart of Springfield was counsel for the opposite party. It was a trial by jury. I examined the witness and Mr. Lincoln attended to the legal questions involved. I had examined an intelligent witness, whose testimony was clear and satisfactory and readily given. When the cross-examination commenced this witness hesitated, manifested reluctance to answer, and was evasive in his replies. Mr. Lincoln arose and addressed the court, and publicly and severely reprimanded the witness. It was a dangerous experiment, which most of our men of the highest standing in our most important witness. His object, however, was accomplished, and the witness answered promptly all questions on cross-examination. Honesty and fairness are the best under all circumstances. Mr. Lincoln was plain in his dress, and after he owned a buggy it was old and dilapidated. Once when he was about to start from Taylorville for Decatur the tires of the wheels of his buggy were so loose as to be dangerous. He secured them by wrapping with hickory bark.

In the practice of the law, forty-old years ago, the fees were small, and Mr. Lincoln had no disposition to increase them. I have now a note, payable to him, for \$8.50 for his services in a contested suit. It was sent to me for collection, but the maker was never able to pay the small amount.

I never saw him angry but once. He became excited at some words of Judge Coles, a stable, an amiable gentleman. Strife was prevented by the interposition of mutual friends. But I shall never forget the aspect of Lincoln's face. The glare of his eye and the working of his countenance were terrible.

Illustrative of his earnestness I recall an incident which happened in June, 1856. I had an appointment to make a political speech to the people of Shelby County. The opponents of the Democratic party requested permission to have present a speaker of their persuasion, to whom I assented. On the day Mr. Lincoln came, and as a matter of courtesy I gave him the privilege to open the discussion. He began at 2 o'clock and continued until nearly 5 o'clock. He made an earnest and plausible speech, but I was satisfied he was unconscious that he was consuming all the time.

After this, as he had ceased to travel on the "old circuits," I met him only occasionally. I have now no recollection of seeing him after the year 1858, and never saw him after his election to the Presidency.

I must confess that the picture of the Lincoln as I knew him years ago, poor and plainly dressed, uncultivated, traversing the prairies of Illinois on horseback or in an old, wornout buggy, practicing a profession which yielded small compensation, is wholly at variance with the picture of the same man on his way to Washington as the President-elect, who, by his kindness and firmness, rallied the people around him, and whose shall the union be saved? Were the pictures the same? The same man is portrayed, and yet how different! He had grown and matured, his surroundings had produced this change were inborn. His common sense, the gift of nature, awakened by his surroundings; his power to receive impressions; his ability to perform; his firmness in the face of his patrons and unselfishness; his gentle nature, roused by the conditions confronting him, made—

A combination and a form indeed, where every god did seem to set his seal To give the world assurance of a man.

Great thoughts, great feelings, came to him, Like instinctive answers.

It was rather late in the afternoon of Jan. 4, 1840, when we arrived at Springfield after a long and rather wearying journey from New York, or rather from New Haven. There were few railroads in those days and not one on this side of the Alleghenies, so we were obliged to come by water from Pittsburg to St. Louis, and by reason of the low stage of water we were on the boat two weeks. The rest of the journey we made in the old stage coach and was a two days' ride.

Ninian Edwards, my husband's brother, invited us to stay with his family until our own house should be ready for occupancy. On our arrival we most gladly accepted. The old stage coach went lumbering up to the house, a large, commodious structure near the present Statehouse, and my husband and I, feeling like the thought of meeting strangers; but that I had a haven of rest it appeared to me when we entered that bright, hospitable home and how quickly my fears were dispelled and my heart made light by the cordiality with which we were received from all the family. The house seemed as brilliantly illuminated by its firelight, candles, and astral lamps as in these days by the use of gas and electricity.

It was on that evening that I met Mary Todd—afterward Mrs. Lincoln. For the time she had a home with her sister, Mrs. Ninian Edwards. I was attracted toward her at once. The sunshine in her face, the reflection in her eyes, she greeted me so kindly and with such warmth of manner that I was made to feel perfectly at home, and though a little older than I, she insisted on my calling her by her first name. The cordial friendship was continued to the end of her life.

Mary Todd had naturally a fine mind and cultivated tastes. She was a great reader and was possessed of a remarkably retentive memory. Her brilliant conversation, often embellished with apt quotations, made her society much sought after by all the young people of the town. She was quick at repartee, and when the occasion seemed to require it, was sarcastic and severe.

About that time Springfield society contained some of the brightest young men that any State could produce—men whose names hold a prominent place in Illinois history—during the sessions of the State Legislature. Among them were Isaac Arnold, J. Young Scammon, Lyman Trumbull, Mark Shaw, William B. Ogden, and others besides our own "bright practical stars," of whom I will name only Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas, the "Little Giant," though there were others whose names stand high on the roll of honor of our State. These legislative assemblies were always the occasion of many social gatherings for distinguished men from every part of the State, who came to the capital and were royally entertained by our ladies, whose hospitality was noted all over this State.

There was then a galaxy of beautiful girls, whose vivacity, intelligence, and propriety of deportment would entitle them to entrance of the choicest society in any city. It was a brave set of young people, such as is seldom met with in these days, where a congeniality of mind and spirit made these social functions most enjoyable. I have heard that at these times Mary Todd was usually the center of attraction.

Mr. Lincoln, I think, was acknowledged to be the most popular and agreeable talker of the young men. His stories were all listened to with the greatest attention and enjoyed immensely.

I had heard a rumor of the engagement of Mr. Lincoln and Miss Todd, yet I considered it merely one of the unfounded reports always floating in society, for I really thought Mr. Douglas was more assiduous in his attentions than Mr. Lincoln.

During the winter of 1840 I had two young visitors who spent several weeks with me. One was a bright, dashing girl from Chicago, the daughter of Justin Butterfield, the other was the daughter of Judge Pope from St. Louis, a sweet and attractive girl. Some of Mr. Lincoln's friends were visiting him, making a gay company, and as our house was not far from Miss Todd's home and almost opposite the old Second Presbyterian Church, where the legislative sessions were held (the first Statehouse was not completed then), our house seemed the favorite rendezvous for all these young girls, who often tried to tease Mary about her "tall suitor." She bore their jokes and teasings good naturedly, but would give them no satisfaction, neither affirming nor denying the report. It was therefore with great surprise I heard the news of their intended marriage.

Ninian Edwards came to our house rather early in the morning of a November day, and without any preliminaries said to my wife: "I want you to come to our house this evening." I asked what was going on. He replied: "We are going to have a wedding. I met Mr. Lincoln a while ago and he told me that he and Mary were going to be married this evening (I think he said) at the parsonage, but I told him that must not be, Mary was my word, and if she was going to be married it must be from my house."

He went on to say that he had left his wife greatly disturbed over the fact that she did not have time to prepare a suitable wedding feast. There were no confectioners in those days to furnish dainty refreshments which are now so necessary on such occasions; no caterers to relieve the housekeepers of the labor of preparing the menus for the guests. Every housekeeper had to depend upon the skill of her own hands and her own good taste in preparing the needed edibles for such functions. There was only one bakery in the city of Springfield, and its choicest commodities were ginger bread and cake.

Some little misunderstanding had occurred which prevented Mr. Lincoln from visiting at the house, but Mrs. Simeon Francis,

NEIR

whose husband was editor of the Sangamon Journal (a mutual friend), had made arrangements that they should meet there, and it was there the wedding was planned. To her sister, Mrs. Edwards, Mary had been reticent and had not given the least intimation of her purpose.

Human nature is the same all over the world. This little town was not free from its rivalry, jealousies, and envyings. Some one had spoken of Mr. Lincoln as a "plebeian." This rankled in the heart of Miss Todd sorely. So when about noon of the wedding day Mrs. Edwards' feelings were sufficiently calmed to talk to her sister of the affair she said: "Mary, you have not given me much time to prepare for our guests this evening." Then she added, "I guess I shall have to send to old Dickey's for some of his ginger bread and beer." Mary replied: "Well, that will be good enough for plebeians, I suppose."

Mrs. Edwards was a model housekeeper and her entertainments were always elegant and elaborate. They were on this occasion, although conditions were not favorable. She was equal to the emergency and provided an elegant, bountiful supper. The wedding was what might be called a pretty one, "simple yet impressive." The details, many of them, probably, were not long remembered by those present, but if we could have had even the imagination of a thought of what the future had in store for Mr. Lincoln the most trifling incident of that event doubtless would have been impressed upon memory as with the point of a diamond.

I have heard that Miss Todd's ambition was something colossal. She had from early girlhood said she expected to marry a man who some day would be President of the United States and she seemed to have a prophetic vision that this ambition would be realized. But what was there in Mr. Lincoln to encourage such ambition and expectation? Apparently nothing, and when he was nominated it seemed impossible that this should ever be. There were so many others that we could name who seemed so much better fitted for this position than he. But the one who regardeth not the outward appearances but "knoweth what is the mind of man" saw in Mr. Lincoln that which so qualified him to be the leader of this great nation, which was to undergo such trying and fearful changes, and therefore bestowed upon him this crown of glory. His title to it, who can doubt? His reign was short, but the results, the effect, will live forever and forever.

I saw but little of Mrs. Lincoln after her husband's election. It was but a few evenings after this event that I met her at a little gathering at the residence of Dr. William Jayne. I congratulated her and said: "Mary, you were wise, but I used to think Mr. Douglas would be your choice."

She replied most emphatically: "No, indeed; I liked him well enough, but that was all." The next time I saw her was several months after Mr. Lincoln's assassination. She heard I was visiting in Chicago, and sent to ask me to call on her at the Clifton House. She told me then that for weeks and months after her husband's death she was in such a condition that "life to her was a perfect blank." "Time seemed blotted out," she said. "I must have been living all these weeks in a state of unconsciousness, for I remember nothing, and the awakening was terrible."

She told me, too, of her fear lest Mr. Lincoln should be defeated in his reelection, adding: "I could have gone down on my knees to have asked votes for him, and again and again he said: 'Mary, I am afraid you will be punished for this overweening anxiety. If I am to be elected it will be all right; if not, you must bear the disappointment.'"

If she then could only have had some prophetic vision of that which was on the other side of that "impenetrable fog-bank"—of that which was to be—how would she have received it? In merciful kindness it was hidden from her eyes.

Mrs. B. S. EDWARDS.

Mrs. Edwards is the only one now living of those who attended the wedding of Mr. Lincoln and Miss Todd.

Another prominent member in the same circle with Mr. Lincoln and Miss Todd is Mrs. B. T. Edwards, the widow of Judge Benjamin T. Edwards, and sister-in-law of Mr. Ninian Edwards, who had married Miss

a woman of the most perfect refinement and trustworthiness. In answer to the question, "Is Mr. Herndon's description true?" she writes :

"I am impatient to tell you that all that he says about this wedding—the time for which was 'fixed for the first day of January'—is a fabrication. He has drawn largely upon his imagination in describing something which never took place.

"I know the engagement between Mr. Lincoln and Miss Todd was interrupted for a time, and it was rumored among her young friends that Mr. Edwards had rather opposed it. But I am sure there had been no 'time fixed' for any wedding; that is, no preparations had ever been made until the day that Mr. Lincoln met Mr. Edwards on the street and told him that he and Mary were going to be married that evening. Upon inquiry, Mr. Lincoln said they would be married in the Episcopal church, to which Mr. Edwards replied: 'No; Mary is my ward, and she must be married at my house.'

"If I remember rightly, the wedding guests were few, not more than thirty; and it seems to me all are gone now but Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Levering, and myself, for it was not much more than a family gathering; only two or three of Mary Todd's young friends were present. The 'entertainment' was simple, but in beautiful taste; but the bride had neither veil nor flowers in her hair, with which to 'toy nervously.' There had been no elaborate *trousseau* for the bride of the future President of the United States, nor even a handsome wedding gown; nor was it a gay wedding."

Two sisters of Mrs. Lincoln's who are still living, Mrs. Wallace of Springfield, and Mrs. Helm of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, deny emphatically that any wedding was ever arranged between Mr. Lincoln and Miss Todd but the one which did take place. That the engagement was broken after a wedding had been talked of, they think possible; but Mr. Herndon's story, they deny emphatically.

"There is not a word of truth in it!" Mrs. Wallace broke out, impulsively, before the question about the non-appearance of Mr. Lincoln had been finished. "I never was so amazed in my life as when I read that story. Mr. Lincoln never did such a thing. Why, Mary Lincoln never had a silk dress in her life until she went to Washington."

As Mr. Joshua Speed was, all through this period, Mr. Lincoln's closest friend, no thought or feeling of the one ever being concealed from the other, Mrs. Joshua Speed,

Todd's sister. She came to Springfield in 1839, and was intimately acquainted with Mr. Lincoln and Miss Todd, and knew, as well as another could know, their affairs. Mrs. Edwards is still living in Springfield,

who is still living in Louisville, Kentucky, was asked if she knew of the story. Mrs. Speed listened in surprise to Mr. Herndon's tale. "I never heard of it before," she declared. "I never heard of it. If it is true, I never heard of it."

In all of these cases the opinion of only those persons intimately connected with Mr. Lincoln and Miss Todd has been asked. Care has been taken, too, to apply only to persons whose character put them beyond the suspicion of distorting facts.

Quite unexpectedly, some months ago, a volunteer witness to the falsity of the story appeared. The Hon. H. W. Thornton of Millersburg, Illinois, was a member of the Twelfth General Assembly, which met in Springfield in 1840. During that winter he was boarding near Lincoln, saw him almost every day, was a constant visitor at Mr.

(incomplete)



ILLINOIS



"THY WONDROUS STORY"

By JOHN HOWARD TODD, A. B. (Member Illinois State Historical Society)

THE MARRIAGE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN



ABRAHAM LINCOLN and Mary Todd were married in Springfield, Ill., on Nov. 4, 1842, after a courtship that was full of dark days and of doubts that wrenched the hearts and harassed the minds of both. The wedding took place on a Friday night while a wind and rain storm swept the streets of the capital city. Only a few of the relatives and close friends gathered for the ceremony at the home of Ninian W. Edwards, whose wife was a sister of Mary Todd. There, without flourish and in a simple setting, the vows were received by the Rev. Charles Dresser, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Miss Todd had announced to one of her cousins on Nov. 3 that the marriage was to take place that evening, according to one version of the affair. There was excitement in the Edwards family when these plans were suddenly disclosed, and Mrs. Edwards, after some perturbation, remarked that it was fortunate the Episcopal sewing society was to meet with her that evening.

"My supper is all ordered," she said, but Mary Todd quickly vetoed the arrangement, declared she would not make a spectacle of herself for chattering women and forthwith postponed the marriage until the next evening. Mr. Lincoln calmly accepted the schedule as amended by his fiancée and the Friday wedding followed.

Mr. Lincoln and Miss Todd became engaged originally in 1840, after the high-spirited Kentucky girl had received attention from Douglas, Shields and other beaux of the day in Springfield. Some of the Edwards family doubted the wisdom of the proposed alliance. They esteemed Mr. Lincoln as a high-minded, honorable, able gentleman, but feared that the tastes and temperaments of the two were not compatible.

Mr. Lincoln doubted for a time his ability to make this girl happy as a wife. The thought made him miserable and morose, and on New Year's day, 1841, the engagement was broken by him. How this action preyed on his mind is disclosed in a letter he wrote three weeks later to John T. Stuart, his law partner.

"I am the most miserable man living," he confided. "If what I feel were equally distributed to the whole human family there would not be one cheerful face on earth. Whether I shall ever be better I cannot tell; I awfully forebode I shall not. To remain as I am is impossible; I must die or be better, it appears to me."

Mr. Lincoln's stress of mind is supposed to have been due to a feeling that he had been guilty of a breach of honor on that "fatal 1st of January, 1841," as he referred to the breaking of his engagement in a letter to his intimate friend, Joshua F. Speed. In this letter he wrote in part:

"I must regain my confidence in my own ability to keep my resolves when they are made. In that ability I once prided myself as the only or chief gem of my character; that gem I lost—how and where you know too well. I have not yet regained it and, until I do, I cannot trust myself in any matter of much importance."

A story in Herndon's "Life of Lincoln" that Mr. Lincoln was to marry Miss Todd on New Year's day, 1841, that the wedding feast was spread, that the bride-to-be was arrayed in her marriage gown and that the prospective groom failed to appear, has been denied emphatically by a dozen friends best qualified to speak. Under what circumstances the engagement was renewed was the secret of Mr. Lincoln and Miss Todd.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN MARRIED

TO MARY TODD 74 YEARS AGO

Abraham Lincoln's first love, Anne Rutledge, died. He mourned her deeply, and the look of melancholy stamped on his face during those black days of grief never wholly left it. Yet two years later he was courting another girl, Mary Owens. Miss Owens rejected him, writing later as her reason: "Mr. Lincoln seemed to me deficient in those little links which make up the chain of a woman's happiness."

After another two years he met Mary Todd. Miss Todd was a pretty, vivacious Kentucky girl, of good family and with a spiffing temper. She came to live with her sister in Springfield, Ill., where Lincoln was practicing law. She had many suitors, among them Stephen A. Douglas, who later was Lincoln's bitterest political foe, and James Shields, who afterward became a United States senator and a civil war general.

Miss Todd tried to be funny in print at Shields' expense. Shields hotly resented this. Lincoln, to protect Miss Todd, took on himself the blame. Shields challenged him to mortal combat. Lincoln accepted the challenge, and chose cavalry sabers as weapons. Arrived at the dueling ground, he amused himself by lopping off tree limbs with his saber. Shields viewed this exhibition of great strength for a moment, then consented to be "talked out" of fighting.

Objections to Lincoln.

Lincoln's act of chivalry in this affair appealed strongly to Miss Todd. She and her champion became engaged. Her family bitterly opposed the match, saying that Lincoln was poor, uncouth and of humble birth and that he seemed to have no future. She is reported to have replied to these objections:

"His heart is as large as his arms are long, and some day I shall land him in the White House."

The marriage was scheduled for January 1, 1841. Lincoln, as the time drew near, began to look forward with dread to the eventful day. Perhaps Miss Todd's hot temper frightened him. Perhaps the memory of gentle Anne Rutledge was still strong in him. Once he caused Miss Todd to fly into a rage by referring to the marriage date as "that fateful first of January."

When the wedding day arrived the bridegroom was missing. Miss Todd, the clergyman and the wedding guests waited in vain. Lincoln was nowhere to be found. He had, literally, "taken to the woods." Unable to bring himself to marry Miss Todd, he had bolted. For days even his best friends could not find him. And for months afterward he was plunged into so deep a remorse and misery that it was feared he would try to kill himself. Hearing of Miss Todd's chagrin over his behavior in running away, he said:

"The thought that I made her unhappy kills my soul."

Little by little certain matchmaking friends patched up a reconciliation between the former lovers. And on November 4, 1842, Lincoln and Miss Todd were married. They did not fix on a date for the wedding until the very day it occurred.

Reluctant to Wed.

And again Lincoln's heart misgave him, but this time his friends gave him no chance to escape, even had he wished to do so. As he started for the house where the marriage was to take place a street boy chanced to meet him. Seeing that the bridegroom was clad in Sunday clothes on a week day, the boy asked:

"Where are you going, Mr. Lincoln, all dressed up like that?"

"To hell, I'm afraid," groaned Lincoln, as he passed on to the wedding.

A witness to the ceremony wrote that Lincoln "stood before the clergyman as pale and trembling as if being driven to slaughter."

The young couple were wretchedly poor. They went to live at a local tavern, where the board for both was \$4 a week. When Lincoln began to make more money they moved into a house of their own and kept a servant. At least they hired many servants in rapid succession. They could keep none, because Mrs. Lincoln's temper drove them all away.

Yet, though she often made him wretchedly unhappy, Mrs. Lincoln was devoted to her husband, and he returned her love. When he received news of his election to the Presidency he started at once for home, saying:

"There's a little woman down at our house who'll be more interested in hearing this than I am."

**Abraham Lincoln Married 78 Years
Ago Today; Mrs. Mary Edwards Brown
Tells Story of Hasty Wedding Plans**

Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd were married in Springfield seventy-eight years ago today under conditions that are generally unknown to a majority of the people. Many stories have been circulated about the circumstances surrounding the marriage which are declared to be false by Mrs. Mary Edwards Brown, custodian of Lincoln's home and the granddaughter of Mrs. Lincoln's sister in whose home the wedding took place.

In 1842 Mary Todd was visiting her sister, Mrs. Ninian W. Edwards and was being courted by both Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas. Ninian Edwards, her brother-in-law, although he liked Lincoln personally, and assisted him in his study of law by loaning him books, favored Douglas because he thought the marriage to Lincoln would not be advantageous for Mary. On account of this opposition the young Lincoln and his sweetheart were forced to meet outside the Edwards home and so much of their courting was done at the home of Simeon Francis, a very good friend of Lincoln's.

Even in the case of our greatest citizen, the course of love was not smooth and finally the young couple decided to take matters in their own hands and on the morning of Friday, November 4, 1842, Lincoln met Edwards on the street and greeted him, "Mary and I are going to be married this afternoon at the Episcopal church." At this time it was not considered quite proper to be married at church as at home so Edwards said that if they were determined to be married the ceremony should take place at his home.

Some Excitement.

As all arrangements had been made for the ceremony to be performed that day it was decided to wait only until evening and then have it performed at the Edwards home. Anyone who has been forced to prepare for company on short notice has some idea of the excitement in the Edwards household that day but the idea is made much clearer when we stop to think that at that time nothing could be purchased ready to wear or serve. Mrs. Edwards, who was famous for her wonderful baking, creams and salads, fared forth into the kitchen and baked the wedding cake, which was still warm when cut.

Every bride knows that although the wedding cake is extremely important to the ceremony, the keynote of the whole wedding is the gown, and think of being married on a few hours notice and not being able to go down town and buy a gown ready to wear and almost as attractive as though it had been designed especially for the maid and the occasion. That was a terrible set of circumstances for any girl to face. Is there ever any gown in any girl's wardrobe, be it ever so elaborate, that is quite good enough for this auspicious occasion? One thing that saved the day for Mary was that her sister, Mrs. William Wallace, had been married a very short time before in a beautiful brocaded satin of the quality which has long since been placed with the other relics of "the dear old days." It was made in the voluminous style of the day and fitted Mary beautifully. It was in this dress at seven o'clock in the evening of the same day that the preparations for the event were begun, that she stood up before Rev. Charles Dresser, the first Episcopal rector ever in Springfield, and became the bride of the obscure young lawyer who was later to have such a glorious career.

The service was read in the parlor of the home of Ninian W. Edwards, which stood until a short time ago on the present site of the Centennial

building, before the old fireplace. On the mantle stood a set of beautiful astral lamps which burned sperm oil. They were lighted for this occasion. The set consists of two small side-lamps, which hang suspended from a metal frame, and the center lamp, about with a beautiful etched glass shade. The bridesmaid and the best man were Miss Julia Jayne, sister of the late Dr. William Jayne, and James Matheny father of Robert, Lee, and the late James Matheny. It is said by members of the family that it had always been Mary's ambition and dream to become the wife of the president of the United States, but then what girl doesn't have just such dreams?

The Wedding Supper.

After the ceremony was performed a wedding dinner was served to the friends and relatives who had been hastily summoned to attend the wedding. It was all that any bride could desire. It was served at a long table covered with beautiful white linen, just a little finer and more beautiful than anyone else in that part of the country possessed because it had once been the property of the Spanish ambassador to this country. The center of the cloth contained two turtle doves which made it very appropriate to the occasion, which gave it its historical value and caused its preservation. The dinner ended with the serving of the large warm wedding cake which during the meal rested in state on the beautiful mahogany sideboard which was the property of the host's father when he was territorial governor of Illinois.

One little story which is told in whispers and which accounts for the fact that only the skirt of the wonderful wedding gown is preserved, is that Mary Todd Lincoln during the excitement of the evening spilled a cup of coffee on her sister's dress and stained it.

A short time after they were married Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln went to Lexington, Ky., to visit Mrs. Lincoln's father, who afterwards wrote to Ninian Edwards, his son-in-law, that he "was charmed with Lincoln and I only hope that Mary will make as good a wife as she has a husband."

The skirt of the wedding gown is now in the possession of Mrs. Walter Patteson, who is a grand-daughter of Mrs. William Wallace, the bride for whom the gown was designed. The old Sheffield plate cake server and the mahogany sideboard with its carved claw feet, the old sperm oil lamps and the tablecloth are at the Lincoln homestead.

STATE BUYS PIANO OF LINCOLN WEDDING

*Mr. Photo
Spring
1912*

The grand piano upon which the wedding march for the marriage of Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd was played has been purchased by Col. C. R. Miller, director of the state department of public works and buildings, and will be placed in the museum at Old Salem in which many interesting Lincoln relics are to be found.

The piano will stand within a square railed-in place in the center of the museum floor, and will be one of the most valuable and interesting in the Lincoln collection at Old Salem.

May 1860
2/14/26
11 St. 1000000

Lincoln Wed Suddenly; Simple Item In State Journal Told Of Event

The Illinois State Journal for Nov. 11, 1842, contained in a corner of its front page the following brief item:

Married—In this city on the 4th instant, at the residence of W. N. Edwards, Esq., by Rev. C. Dresser, Abraham Lincoln, Esq., to Miss Mary Todd, daughter of Robert Todd, Esq., of Lexington, Ky.

How strange seems today such a simple announcement of such an important event! How vastly different would such an announcement be made if, by some magic change of time, Lincoln were living today, holding the place which he holds in the mind of the world, and such an important event were to take place!

Behind that simple announcement lies the story of the rather abrupt manner in which the wedding of Lincoln and Mary Todd took place, according to stories which are told concerning it.

Carl Sandburg in his new book, "The Unfathomed Lincoln," the material for which he gathered in this city, tells the story thus:

"On the morning of Nov. 4, 1842, Lincoln came to the room of his friend James Matheny before Matheny was out of bed. And to Matheny, under the

quilts, he said, 'I am going to be married today.'

"On the street that day he met Ninian W. Edwards and told Edwards that he and Mary were going to be married that evening. And Edwards gave notice, 'Mary is my ward, and she must be married at my house.'

"And when Edwards asked Mary Todd if what he had heard was true, and she told him it was true, they all started to make the big Edwards house ready. Mrs. Edwards sent for her sister, Frances, to bake a cake. The big house was swept and garnished—as well as possible on such short notice.

"Lincoln watched carefully a plain gold ring he carried, on the inside band of which the jeweler, Chatterton, had engraved the words, 'Love is eternal.'

"At the Edwards house that evening the Rev. Charles Dresser, in canonical robes, performed the ring ceremony of the Episcopal church for the groom, thirty-three years old, and the bride, twenty-three years old. Behind Lincoln stood a supreme court judge, Thomas C. Brown, fat, bluff, blunt, and an able lawyer, not accustomed to weddings. As Lincoln placed the ring on the bride's finger and repeated the form, 'With this ring I thee endow

with all my worldly goods, chattels, lands and tenements,' the supreme court judge blurted out in a suppressed tone that everybody heard, 'God Almighty, Lincoln, the statute fixes all that.' The minister kept a straight face, became serious, and then pronounced Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd man and wife in the sight of God."

Man Who Attended Lincoln Wedding To Be In City Today

By The Associated Press.

St. Louis, Feb. 11.—Gaius Pad-
dock, 91, who saw the marriage of
Abraham Lincoln to Mary Todd at
Springfield, Ill., in 1842, will go to
that city tomorrow as the special
agent of the Lincoln Centennial
association which holds its annual
meeting there.

Paddock was only 6 at the time
but he still retains the memory of
the scene.

1927

THE TRUE STORY OF
MARY, WIFE OF LINCOLN

*Containing the Recollections of Mary Lincoln's
Sister Emilie (Mrs. Ben Hardin Helm), Extracts
from Her War-Time Diary, Numerous Letters
and Other Documents now First Published*

By Her Niece, KATHERINE HELM

*"Lady of Lincoln,
They wreathed her head
With thorns when living,
With nettles though dead."*

MARION MILLS MILLER



WITH MANY ILLUSTRATIONS

NEW YORK AND LONDON
HARPER & BROTHERS PUBLISHERS

MCMXXVIII

enjoy herself without him, laughing and chatting with other friends as if no Lincoln existed.

Mr. Lincoln was now free from any entanglement with Mary Todd. His only source of unhappiness, he writes Speed, being one whom he had "contributed to make unhappy, I cannot but reproach myself for even wishing to be happy while she is otherwise." But this cause for his unhappiness did not exist. He thanked God that Mary was happy; and strange as it seemed to him, Mary *was* happy—the center of attraction at balls and parties, picnics and excursions.

He, lonely, puzzled, overwhelmed with melancholy, must have missed her bright repartee, the play of expression on her mobile face emphasizing the meaning of her words. Memories of their past love affair surely haunted him, and a longing grew in his heart for a sight of her mysterious little crooked smile curling into irregular dimples on each side of her mouth, a little deeper on her right cheek. He wished to hear again the soft Southern drawl in her cultured voice. The little drawl which quickened into an eager flow of words when she was interested or excited. An ardent wish for reconciliation must have filled his heart, for when Mrs. Simeon Francis by a friendly ruse brought the two together in her parlor and said, "Be friends again," there was no hesitation on the part of either as

Mary lifted her long lashes and met the love she expected to find in Lincoln's deep-set earnest gray eyes. They were one in mind and heart and as long as life lasted neither ever again doubted the other's faithful love.

From that time they had many quiet meetings in the home of Mrs. Francis, and Mrs. Edwards knew nothing of these meetings. Mary wanted no advice, no more criticism of the man she loved. Though he may not have always made flowery, flattering speeches, though he may have been at times almost too frank and candid, the warm admiration and love which glowed in his eyes fully satisfied her. Judging his heart by her own, she knew that he loved her, she had known it all along during the months of their estrangement; and she felt that his love would be strong and enduring, that the romance she had cherished from childhood's days would culminate in marriage to the hero of her fancy, and that they "would be happy ever after." Neither Mary nor Mr. Lincoln wanted the "pomp and circumstance" incident to a big wedding, such as the Edwards' had given her sister Frances when she was married to Dr. William Wallace, so they decided to have the marriage ceremony performed very quietly at the house of Mr. Dresser, the Episcopal minister in the presence of a few of their most intimate friends.

They both feared further opposition from Mary's family and were still resentful of past advice and criticism.

Mr. Lincoln meeting Mr. Edwards on the street, therefore, told him that he and Mary had decided to be married quietly at Mr. Dresser's house that evening.

Mr. Edwards, feeling responsible for Mary, exclaimed: "No, I am Mary's guardian and if she is married at all it must be from my house."

Mary was consulted, and after some discussion she and Mr. Lincoln agreed to Mr. Edwards' wishes. It was a bright cool morning in November and Mary fairly flew to the home of her uncle, Dr. John Todd, who was much beloved by his nieces, being so calm and quiet and affable. "Uncle," she cried excitedly, "you must go and tell my sister that Mr. Lincoln and I are to be married this evening," and turning to her cousin Elizabeth Todd, she asked her to put on her bonnet and go with her to make some purchases.

When they reached the Edwards home there was great excitement coupled with no little indignation, that such news should have been announced so suddenly that there was not time to make formal and suitable preparations for a wedding. But Dr. Todd was a suave and diplomatic advocate for Mary's cause and soon had them all in smiling good-humor. Mrs. Edwards said with a teasing laugh, "It is fortunate, Mary, that you

selected this evening, for the Episcopal sewing society meets with me and my supper is already ordered." "But," said Mrs. Grimsley, Mary's cousin (Elizabeth Todd), in a statement to Miss Tarbell, "this comfortable little arrangement did not suit Mary," and Uncle John was sent post haste to inform Mr. Lincoln that the wedding would be deferred until the next evening.

The Episcopal minister, Mary's close relatives, and a few of the most intimate friends of the two were notified. It was a very small gathering, not more than thirty people. But in spite of such hurried preparations, one of the guests writes, "The entertainment was simple but in beautiful taste." The bride wore one of her lovely embroidered white muslin dresses. Miss Jayne, Miss Rodney, and Miss Elizabeth Todd were her bridesmaids.

The heavy black clouds that had been massing all day sent down great splashing tear drops; then with the rain beating down in roaring torrents, raging and rattling at doors and windows, Mary Todd became the wife of Abraham Lincoln.

This was on Friday, the fourth of November, 1842.

- 278 LINCOLN, ABRAHAM. The marriage certificate and license of Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd. Issued in Sangamon County, Illinois, November 4, 1842. Framed, with a letter by W. H. Herndon.

AN UNUSUAL ASSOCIATION RELIC WHICH HERNDON CLAIMS IS "TRUE AND GENUINE". The license issued by N. W. Matheny, the certificate of marriage, which comprises the lower half of the document, bears the name of the Rev. Charles Dresser who performed the ceremony. The document bears an embossed stamp of Sangamon County with the date 1849, and although definitely not the document issued for the ceremony it is possible that Lincoln may have lost the original and procured the present copy in its place.

Under the glass of the reverse side is the A. L. s. by Herndon, reading in part as follows: "*Enclosed you will please find the marriage Certificate of Lincoln & Miss Todd in 1842. My wife found it among my Lincoln papers. It is true & genuine . . .*" Herndon, Lincoln's law partner and biographer, and most likely was one of the few intimate friends who were at the ceremony.

LINCOLN WEDDING YARN POPS
UP AGAIN

Feb. 16, 1939.

Robert E. Sherwood, This Week Magazine, Daily News Plaza,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

In your article "Lincoln Freed Himself" in This Week Magazine, Feb. 11, you repeat that ancient fabrication—"on the wedding day the supper was laid and the minister in readiness—and the groom (Lincoln) failed to appear."

This bit of fiction was invented by W. H. Herndon, one of Lincoln's law partners, who embellished his yarn with a description of the bride's gown and Lincoln's "flight" in which he was said to have been finally discovered by his friends after a night's search.

In her excellent four-volume "Life of Lincoln" Ida M. Terbell completely exploded this myth. (Vol. 1, p. 174 et seq.) The breaking of the engagement of Lincoln and Miss Todd was known at the time (Jan. 1, 1841) to all their friends. During the preparation of her history Miss Tarbell personally interviewed several close personal friends of the Lincolns, who indignantly denied the story. Two sisters of Mrs. Lincoln were still living at that time, Mrs. Wallace of Springfield and Mrs. Helm of Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Both emphatically denied the story. "There is not a word of truth in it," Mrs. Wallace said.

Herndon based his yarn on a remark which he said Mrs. Ninian Edwards made to him. Without corroboration Herndon added his wealth of detail and upon this bit of gossip has grown this false blot on the Lincoln estucheon. Mrs. B. T. Edwards, her sister-in-law, was among those who flouted the story.

Since this complete refutation of the yarn by Miss Tarbell, careful historians have avoided scurrilous repetition of this fiction. It is a tempting and toothsome morsel, a dramatic detail that dies hard; but it is a libel upon a good and great man that should be scotched upon its every appearance.

In memory of our revered national hero, I hope that you will fully refute this error.

Very truly yours,
Henry W. Lee.

STATE HOUSE *notes*

LINCOLN'S MARRIAGE—

Representative Charles J. Jenkins (Rep., Chicago) had his say yesterday on the three day marriage law—after waiting four years to do so. Jenkins opposed the bill when the house was considering it four years ago, but it was the last day of the session, and instead of heeding him, members threw firecrackers at him.

Yesterday the house passed a repealer and sent it to the senate, after Jenkins had read from William E. Barton's "The Women Lincoln Loved" the following passage:

"They (Lincoln and Mary Todd) had a number of secret meetings at the Francis house, and at length reached a swift agreement to be married at once, with no more nonsense about it. The next day was Friday. It was not a day which either Lincoln or his bride would have chosen for a wedding, for both were superstitious, but they fearing nothing now so much as a delay in which each would have opportunity to permit their resolution to be sickled o'er with thought."

The marriage license was issued on Nov. 4, 1842, and they were married the same day—"but if there had been a three day marriage law then," Jenkins said, "perhaps they wouldn't have been married at all, and perhaps without his wife to exhort him, Lincoln would never have risen to greatness. What young Lincoln in this state today may not need an exhorting wife and neglects to marry because in the three day waiting period, he changes his mind?

"Don't you think an old maid who has waited forty years should be able to bind the contract at once as soon as a man asks her to marry? This bill ought to have the vote of every member."

"Every married member," interposed Representative Peter Granata (Rep., Chicago).

"Every member," said Jenkins. "We married ones want everyone to get in the harness with us."

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 707

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

October 26, 1942

ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF LINCOLN-TODD MARRIAGE

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Ever since the day when William Herndon first publicized in Springfield, Illinois the Lincoln-Rutledge fable, a fictitious story created by his own imagination, biographers, authors of fiction, playwrights, poets, magazine contributors and feature writers have invariably ignored the facts about Lincoln's real romance with Mary Todd which culminated in his marriage. The emphasis placed on the alleged Rutledge affair has left the casual American reader feeling that Lincoln's real venture in matrimony was a catastrophe. One writer had the audacity to state in the opening sentence of an article in the *Reader's Digest* (January 1937): "The great tragedy of Lincoln's life was not his assassination, but his marriage."

Probably it is too late now to do very much about correcting the ridiculous and wholly undependable story about Lincoln's infatuation for Ann Rutledge, and his supposed mental collapse, approaching suicide, at the time of her death, in which there is not one word of truth. It may not be too late, however, to invite a more sympathetic attitude toward the facts relating to Lincoln's actual romance with Mary Todd and the wedding which made them husband and wife, although Herndon attempted to nullify the interest in the actual Lincoln-Todd nuptials by printing a foolish and untenable story about Lincoln having at a previous date run away from a wedding ceremony.

Up until Lincoln was twenty-eight years of age he had lived in the rural districts far withdrawn from cultural influences. In these words he tells of his first permanent residence in a town: "On April 15, 1837 removed to Springfield." His reaction to this new situation, socially at least, is noted in a letter he wrote on May 7, 1837 after he had been in Springfield twenty-one days, in which he said: "I am quite as lonesome here as I ever was anywhere in my life. I have been spoken to by but one woman since I've been here, and should not have been by her, if she could have avoided it."

That one woman who had spoken to him may have been Mary Todd, cousin of his law partner, John T. Stuart, whose office it is likely she visited as she was in Springfield at this time for a three months' visit. Whether or not Lincoln met Mary Todd during this first visit, or did not meet her until 1839 when she came there to make her home, we may feel assured that he was captivated by her intellectual attainments, her aristocratic bearing, her brilliant conversation and undoubtedly was impressed by the fact that she was a great admirer and personal acquaintance of the venerable, Henry Clay, Lincoln's own "beau ideal of a statesman."

That Lincoln became engaged to Mary Todd sometime in the year 1840 is well known, and that they anticipated being married sometime in 1841 is also admitted, but Herndon's story about a proposed wedding to have occurred on January 1, 1841, at which time guests were present, wedding breakfast prepared and Mary was left at the altar with no bridegroom on hand, is a gross fabrication.

Mrs. Wallace, a sister of Mary Lincoln, made this testimony with reference to Herndon's fake wedding:

"There is not a word of truth in it. I was never so amazed in my life as when I read that story. Mr. Lincoln never did such a thing."

That the engagement of Abraham and Mary was broken on January 1, 1841 is accepted, and while it is not known for a certainty which one of the young people was responsible for the misunderstanding, it is not evident that there was any demonstration on the part of either one of them that caused any expression of disrespect. Two factors which undoubtedly contributed to the temporary separation was Lincoln's fear that Mary might not be happy in having to share his humble station, and the influence of Mary's aristocratic relatives who looked with much disfavor on the match. Mrs. John T. Stuart, wife of Lincoln's first law partner claimed that "Mr. Edwards, her guardian, always was opposed to Mr. Lincoln, on the ground that he was a poor young man and had no prospects," and that, "he insisted upon Mary writing a letter to Mr. Lincoln, breaking off the engagement."

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"Ninian Edwards came to our house rather early in the morning of a November day and without any preliminaries said: 'My wife wants you to come to our house this evening.' I asked what was going on. He replied: 'We are going to have a wedding. I met Mr. Lincoln a while ago and he told me that he and Mary were going to be married this evening (I think he said) at the parsonage, but I told him that must not be. Mary was my ward, and if she was going to be married it must be from my house.' He went on to say that he had left his wife greatly disturbed over the fact that she did not have time to prepare a suitable wedding feast . . . Some little misunderstanding had occurred which prevented Mr. Lincoln from visiting at the house, but Mrs. Simeon Francis, whose husband was editor of the *Sangamo Journal* (a mutual friend), had made arrangements that they should meet there, and it was there the wedding was planned. To her sister, Mrs. Edwards, Mary had been reticent and had not given the least intimation of her purpose."

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Note—See Lincoln Kinsman, No. 36.

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One Hundred Years Ago On Nov. 4 Lincoln And Mary Todd Married

Reported Love For Ann Rutledge Called Fictitious Story

By Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director
Abraham Lincoln Foundation

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This is the inscription which Abraham Lincoln had placed in the ring that he slipped on the wedding finger of Mary Todd, 100 years ago: "A. L. to Mary, Nov. 4, 1842. Love is eternal."

Sunday Herald-Leader

Lexington, Ky., November 1, 1942

Lighter Vein

By V. Y. DALLMAN (Admiral)

EDITOR OF THE STATE REGISTER

LOG OF FLAGSHIP SMILES

REV. F. WILLIAM ORRICK, rector of St. Paul's pro-Cathedral, shared with me the other day the thrill of an excursion through the first Book of Record of St. Paul's—a quaint old book with a sturdy, modern binding which will long endure. Since then State Archive historians have photographed some of the book's pages for permanent preservation.

I was eager to see written there in long-hand the one and only historical church record of the wedding of Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd. That record is entered in rather large, flowing letters by the first rector of St. Paul's, the late Rev. Charles Dresser, grandfather of Mrs. John Chanler White, wife of the present Bishop of the Springfield Diocese of the Episcopal Church whose son, Brig. Gen. Thomas Dresser White, is now with General Douglas MacArthur accepting the formal surrender of Japan.



WE FOUND in the sturdy old record that the wedding of Mr. Lincoln was not the first but the fifteenth to be solemnized by Dr. Dresser as rector of St. Paul's Church which was then located on the southeast corner of Third and Adams Streets. The wedding did not take place at the church, however. A love drama preceded it which would make a Column or two by itself.

On New Year's Day, 1841, Mr. Lincoln and Mary Todd, whose love affair was the talk of the town, had a falling out. It was the town gossip that Mary Todd had jilted Lincoln. Springfield whispered itself into a convulsion of rumors. James C. Conkling gave a humorous twist to it in a letter to Miss Mercy Levering saying:

"Poor L., how are the mighty fallen! He was confined about a week, but though he now appears again he is reduced and emaciated and seems scarcely to possess strength enough to speak above a whisper. His case is truly deplorable . . . I doubt not but he can declare

That loving is a painful thrill
And not to love more painful still

but I would not like to intimate that he has experienced

That surely 'tis the worst sign of pain
To love and not be loved again."

To which Miss Levering replied: "Poor A. . . I fear his is a blighted heart! Perhaps if he was as persevering as Mr. W. (E. B. Webb, a dashing Carmi widower) he might finally be successful!"

THE MONTHS wore on and finally in the Summer of 1842 bashful Mr. Lincoln and Mary Todd were brought together in happy reconciliation by Mrs. Simeon Francis. Lincoln overcame his haunting fear that he was incapable of love as he had imagined it, and on Nov. 4, 1842, Springfield's most notable wedding took place at the home of Ninian W. Edwards. Mrs. Edwards, by the way, was a sister of Mary Todd.

Instead of a wedding trip the couple went to the Globe Tavern where they obtained room and board at \$4 a week!

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH record shows the two names entered one above the other in long hand with no comment just like this:

ABRAHAM LINCOLN
MARY TODD

and in another column appears the name, "Rev. Charles Dresser."

Just below the names of Lincoln and Mary Todd are the names of the sixteenth couple to be married in St. Paul's Parish, E. S. Barnes, Caroline S. Inslee, Sugar Creek." (Just like that!)

Then came the object of the search, the names of my Father and Mother entered thus by Dr. Dresser—"Charles Dallman, Harriet Waters, Springfield, June 11, 1850," the 36th couple wed by Dr. Dresser in St. Paul's Parish. Their vows were said in the Church.

BISHOP WHITE proudly displays a precious document bearing the names of Rev. Dresser and Abraham Lincoln and which hangs in a frame beside his mantel at 821 South Second Street. It attests in Lincoln's handwriting and signed "A. Lincoln" to the transfer, May 8, 1844, of the residence at Eighth and Jackson Streets to become the home of Mr. Lincoln. There he lived. There his children were born. From there he went forth to the Presidency and immortality.

The Lincoln Home was the residence of Rev. Dresser and the rectory of St. Paul's when its transfer to Mr. Lincoln took place.

What an aura of beautiful memories adds luster to the history of St. Paul's Parish! What a thrill to revive the smiles and the music of the wedding of Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd!

Lincoln Leave Bride At Church? It's Puzzle

Did Abraham Lincoln actually leave his bride 'waiting at the church?' And who was his grandfather?

These questions, and others, still perplexed Lincoln scholars Thursday, the 139th anniversary of his birth.

The blank spots in Lincoln's personal history were reported by the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

Concerning the episode in 1841 when Lincoln broke his engagement to Mary Todd, the encyclopaedia noted that one biographer has written that 'everything was in readiness, the bride dressed for the ceremony, but no bridegroom appeared.'

No License Issued

However, no marriage license for Lincoln and Mary Todd was issued in 1840 or 1841. Even Mary Todd Lincoln's sisters could not agree on what actually happened, according to the encyclopaedia.

About Lincoln's grandfather, the father of Nancy Hanks:

'There is a persistent tradition that he was a Virginia aristocrat,' the publication says, but there is no positive proof.

Other Mysteries

What transformed Lincoln from 'an inadequate politician' in 1849 to a 'place in history' after a great speech in reply to Stephen A. Douglas in 1854?

What caused Lincoln's tremendous growth as a writer? The encyclopaedia reports that before 1860 'his language lacked beauty

in any rich sense,' but that 'this quality appeared suddenly in the First Inaugural.'

MARY LINCOLN

Biography of a Marriage

by

RUTH PAINTER RANDALL



With Illustrations

Little, Brown and Company • *Boston*

1953



Brady photographs, Meserve Collection and National Archives

The Lincolns

How they regarded each other is revealed in their letters. He wrote her inquiring anxiously about her headaches, telling her to get a nurse to take care of the "dear codgers," and saying playfully: "I am afraid you will get so well, and fat, and young, as to be wanting to marry again."

She wrote him: "How much, I wish instead of writing, we were together this evening, I feel very sad away from you."

Herndon were not taken so seriously, both by himself and by later Lincoln biographers, one could dismiss his analysis with a smile."¹⁶

But these absurd theories have carried much farther than the simple truth of two young people getting married for the normal reasons. It is well to notice also how the words of the Herndon biography color the whole picture of the married life to follow. Lincoln "stood face to face with the great conflict between honor and domestic peace. He chose the former, and with it years of self-torture, sacrificial pangs, and the loss forever of a happy home."¹⁷ Such passages deserve the analogy that Lincoln himself used in another connection: they are like the "black fluid" thrown out by cuttlefish which makes the water so dark that the fish (and the fact) cannot be seen.¹⁸ The wedding of Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd, the triumph of romantic love over family opposition and snobbery, was a dramatic event, but Herndon's treatment has produced such an obscuring and distorting that in telling the story one is forced seemingly to defend it. Yet defense should be unnecessary. All that is needed is to present the event in its true light and in its appealing human interest. The story speaks for itself when genuinely told. With Herndon's contribution removed there is the clear picture of two people who were marrying for love in spite of opposition and economic difficulties. Emilie Todd Helm, Mary's half sister, stated the obvious when she wrote: "Unless Mary Todd and Mr. Lincoln mutually desired it, there would have been no reason for the marriage."¹⁹

At the stolen meetings the engaged couple had to work out details. Of course they could not have a festive wedding, much as Mary would have liked it, for there was no place to hold it. It was agreed that they would go quietly to Dr. Charles Dresser, the Episcopal minister, and have the ceremony at his home.²⁰ (Had this plan been carried out, they would have been married in the same house they later bought and lived in for seventeen years.) All must be kept secret from Mary's relatives until they were ready. A member of the family said later (after Lincoln had become famous): "Some little misunderstanding had occurred which had prevented Mr. Lincoln from visiting at Mr. Ninian Edwards' house . . ." (Again one notices the understatement, the slurring over, of the family disapproval of the marriage.) The same account shows how successfully the girl had kept her secret: "Mary had been reticent and had not given the least intimation of her purpose."²¹

Things began to happen on the morning of November 4, 1842. Lincoln dropped around to the minister's home on Eighth Street while the

family were still at breakfast and said to Dr. Dresser: "I want to get hitched tonight."²² Some time early that morning the young lawyer met Ninian Edwards on the street, and announced to him that he and Mary were going to be married at the parsonage that evening.

Meanwhile Mary had broken the news in the Edwards mansion. A storm of protest followed. Mrs. Edwards, according to her sister, Frances Todd Wallace, "with an outburst, gave Mary a good scolding," saying to her vehemently, "Do not forget that you are a Todd."²³ The girl stood her ground. The Edwardses were confronted with the fact that Lincoln and Mary had made up their minds to be married that evening and The Family were powerless to prevent it.

Finally realizing this, Mr. and Mrs. Edwards advanced the view that since Ninian was Mary's guardian, the marriage must be performed at the Edwards mansion with assembled guests. Considerable discussion took place before this arrangement was agreed upon.²⁴ There was so much bitterness in the background, Lincoln could hardly have wanted to be married in the aristocratic home from which he had been shut out so long, whose master and mistress had snubbed him as a prospective brother-in-law. One suspects that the decision was Mary's, she so loved parties, and that Lincoln gave in for her sake.

When this question was decided Mrs. Edwards, model housekeeper and hostess that she was, faced the prospect of arranging a wedding feast on short notice. Refreshments must be prepared in the home. As Ninian's sister-in-law told the story, Springfield had only one bakery (Dickey's), and its choicest offerings were gingerbread and beer. Someone (perhaps in the hot words of that morning) "had spoken of Mr. Lincoln as a 'plebian.' . . . So when about noon of the wedding day Mrs. Edwards' feelings were sufficiently calmed to talk to her sister of the affair she said, 'Mary you have not given me much time to prepare for our guests this evening.' Then she added, 'I guess I will have to send to old Dickey's for some of his gingerbread and beer.'" Flinging back the word in hot defiance, Mary gave the spirited reply: "Well, that will be good enough for plebians, I suppose."²⁵

On the whole it was as well that the bride was able to leave the tense atmosphere of the Edwards home for a brief while that day. From her cousin, Elizabeth Todd, has come down the story of another incident on November 4. Elizabeth, unaware of the important event about to take place, wondered what was up when she saw a hurrying little figure running down the street toward her home. Breathless, Mary entered

and exclaimed, "Oh Elizabeth, I'm going to be married tonight to Mr. Lincoln and I want you to stand up with me!" Feminine conversation ensued. "I've nothing to wear," said Elizabeth. "You must get something," said Mary. A solution was worked out and Elizabeth's preparations for the wedding consisted in washing and ironing her best white dress.²⁶

Another reminiscence presents the groom dressing for the ceremony. Salome Butler, daughter of the William Butlers with whom Lincoln had been boarding, remembered how she and her brothers as children loved Mr. Lincoln: ". . . he played with us and would toss me over his shoulder when we would run to meet him." On the evening of the wedding little Salome and her brothers followed Mrs. Butler when she walked down the hall to Mr. Lincoln's room to see if he was properly dressed for the marriage. Any motherly woman would know he needed help in that matter. In Salome's words: "As my mother tied Mr. Lincoln's necktie on him, little Speed called out: 'Where are you going, Mr. Lincoln?' Mr. Lincoln [such is the reminiscence] jokingly replied: 'To the devil!'"²⁷ It was probably a nervous young man's light answer to shut off the teasing questions of a child (or was it the expression of his feeling about going to the Edwards home for the wedding?) but it has been added to the chorus of disparagement of Mary Lincoln.

According to Katherine Helm, Mary's close relatives and a few of the most intimate friends were notified; not more than thirty people were present. The Helm book mentions three bridesmaids, "Miss Jayne, Miss Rodney, and Miss Elizabeth Todd."²⁸ James H. Matheny has been accepted as best man and Lina Lamb is mentioned as bridesmaid in another account; at the same time we uncover a statement that "no one stood up with" Lincoln — "Just he and Mary stood up alone."²⁹

One of Mary's relatives described the wedding as the story had come down in the family circle. The ceremony was held in front of the fireplace. The wedding supper was placed on a long table whose handsome linen cover had an appropriate turtledove design. Because of the hurried preparations the wedding cake was still warm. According to this account the nervous little bride spilled coffee on the bodice of her dress after the ceremony.³⁰

As to what that bodice was made of, one has a wide choice of materials. The bride wore, according to Katherine Helm, "one of her lovely embroidered white muslin dresses."³¹ Mrs. Frances Wallace, Mary's

sister, is quoted in one interview as not being sure the dress was white, and thinking it was "delaine, or something of that kind," and in another interview as saying "Sister Mary was handsome in her beautiful bridal dress of white satin . . ." ³² The only safe statement we can make is that she wore a nice dress of some pleasant material! We know that Mary was a most attractive girl with a pretty figure and vivid face and that she had a way of dressing herself becomingly. If that little bride of 1842, contemporary with the present generation's great-grandmothers, could be brought out of the past for inspection, she would be found quaint perhaps, but lovely and appealing as brides are in all generations.

The tall figure which stood beside her was undoubtedly grave, as serious-minded men are when they take their marriage vows. In addition there was the strained situation that existed after the bitter clashings that had occurred during the day. The sensitive man doubtless saw some tight-lipped disapproval on the faces of his bride's relatives. He could hardly have been at ease. It would have been easier to have gone to the minister's, as he and Mary had planned to do.

Nearly twenty-four years after the event, Herndon questioned James H. Matheny about the wedding and jotted down his answers. Matheny said "Lincoln looked and acted as if he were going to the slaughter" at the marriage.³³ This passage was written into *Herndon's Life of Lincoln*, where just a few pages before we have the statements: "The sober truth is that Lincoln was inordinately ambitious . . . how natural that he should seek by marriage in an influential family to establish strong connections and at the same time foster his political fortunes!" This is followed by another of those insidious comments that serve to color the reader's mind: "This may seem an audacious thing to insinuate, but on no other basis can we reconcile the strange course of his courtship and the tempestuous chapters in his married life."³⁴ Mary's sister Mrs. Wallace (who had no psychoanalyzing theories) said simply that Lincoln at the wedding "was cheerful as he ever had been, for all we could see. He acted just as he always had in company."³⁵ To make contradictions complete, Matheny also stated, according to Herndon's jottings, that the marriage "was concocted and planned by the Edwards family."³⁶

It was this same James H. Matheny who told of a humorous incident which broke the solemnity of the marriage ceremony. This record is in his own handwriting, which is much better than getting it through Herndon's jottings. Matheny's letter reads: "The Wedding incident re-

ferred to was one of the funiest things to have witnessed imaginable. No description on paper can possibly do it justice. . . . Old Judge Brown was a rough 'old-timer' and always said just what he thought without regard to place or surroundings. There was of course a perfect hush in the room as the ceremony progressed. Old Parson Dresser in clerical robes — Brown standing just behind Lincoln — The Parson handed Lincoln the ring, and as he put it on the brides finger, went through the church formula, 'With this ring I thee endow with all my goods and chattles, lands and tenements.' Brown who had never witnessed such a proceeding, was struck with its utter absurdity and spoke out so everybody could hear, in an expression, used by him on all occasions by way of emphasis, 'Lord Jesus Christ, God Almighty, Lincoln, the Statute fixes all that.' This was too much for the Old Parson — he broke down under it — an almost irresistible desire to laugh out, checked his proceeding for a minute or so — but finally recovered and pronounced them Husband & wife."³⁷

What do the various contradictory accounts of the wedding add up to? Human imagination is lively and memory plays tricks, telescopes events, switches labels and under suggestion often recalls things that never happened. What we know of a certainty is that on the evening of November 4, 1842, in the presence of the "Dearly beloved" gathered together, Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd stood side by side before the minister, joined hands, and promised to take each other "for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish" till death did them part. It is said that rain beat against the windows as they were pronounced man and wife.³⁸ "Tears for the bride the rain falls on," runs the old saying: it was to prove tragically so in the case of Mary Lincoln.

There followed feasting and merriment to the point where presumably the newlyweds passed from the illumination and rich furnishings of the Edwards home to a carriage which bore them through the dark and mud to a plain boardinghouse.³⁹ Did the rain beat against the windowpanes of the room where Lincoln took his bride that night? Rain was destined to fall on another night then far in the future, a night also momentous with change for Mary Lincoln.

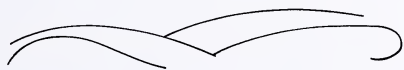
Seven days later the young husband wrote a friend: "Nothing new here, except my marrying, which to me, is matter of profound wonder."⁴⁰ The phrase seems a bridegroom's perfect expression of a fundamental human experience.



MARY TODD LINCOLN

A BIOGRAPHY

JEAN H. BAKER



W. W. NORTON & COMPANY

NEW YORK / LONDON

1989

Credit: Leonard L. Gifford Jr.

was already enraged by Lincoln's earlier insults, and it is Mary's Rebecca who recommends as weapons "if they have to fight broomsticks, hot water, and a shovel full of hot coals." When the time came, the long-armed Lincoln instead chose cavalry broad swords—and practiced. Still, Illinois was not Mary's murderous Lexington, and when Lincoln and Shields met on the dueling grounds at Bloody Island, Missouri, a reconciliation was reached by their seconds before the fighting began.⁵³

There is no record of Mary Todd's reaction to this incident. She had grown up with the practice of dueling and no doubt enjoyed the romantic intrigue of Lincoln as her champion, ready to die defending her name. But for the rest of his life Lincoln was ashamed of the episode of the broadswords. Considering it foolish and illegal, he sought to exorcise it from his memory. Once during the Civil War, when a Union officer asked Lincoln at a White House reception if he had fought a duel—"and all for the sake of the lady by your side"—a red-faced Lincoln snapped: "I do not deny it but if you desire my friendship, never mention it again." Mary Lincoln wrote later of the event that "we mutually agreed never to mention it—except in an occasional light manner between us."⁵⁴

SIX weeks after the duel and three days after the election, Mary Todd married Abraham Lincoln. On that rainy night in November 1842 she wore her sister Frances's white satin dress and a pearl necklace, had two bridesmaids, and gave her answers to an Episcopalian minister. Still, like most events in Mary Todd's life, this wedding was not traditional. She had not engaged in those familiar female rituals of stitching bed linen, stoning raisins, and preparing the customary thirty-six-egg wedding cake. Nor did either set of parents attend. While this was common enough on the groom's side, most brides were married at home.

Many nineteenth-century parents had no more than a week's notice before a wedding. In early Springfield they needed no more, having no caterer to hire or hall for which to compete. Instead, the wedding ceremony usually took place at home before a small audience in the evening. Only two outsiders were necessary: a minister or magistrate to say the words and, for the rich people on the hill, Watson's, the Springfield confectioner who provided the much admired pyramid of macaroons. But Mary Todd's guests received less than the week's notice recommended by the etiquette books.⁵⁵

In light of their mutual predicaments—the recent duel, their still-remembered separation, and Elizabeth Edwards's opposition—the couple intended a private ceremony “without any parade” in Reverend Dresser's home. Often, especially outside eastern cities, the marriage ceremony was, as one traveler wrote, “loosely-performed and lightly considered.” But somehow, in the time it took to get the license from the Sangamon County Court and have the lesson of their courtship—“Love is Eternal”—engraved on the bride's gold wedding ring, the word spread. In some accounts (and there are many) Lincoln waited until the wedding day to inform Ninian Edwards, who as Mary Todd's guardian insisted that she be married from his parlor. In other stories Mary Todd told her cousin John Todd Stuart a day before, and after a last family controversy over the suitability of the groom Elizabeth Edwards reluctantly organized the wedding supper. Years later both Todd sisters conveyed the sense that the wedding was not quite proper through their cherished memory that Mary's wedding cakes were still warm. They preferred to forget another incident. After the groom had declared his willingness to endow the bride with all his goods and chattels, lands, and tenements, one old-timer, accustomed to more informal civil ceremonies, blurted out: “the statute fixes that, Lord Jesus Christ, God Almighty, Lincoln.”⁵⁶

Jump To:

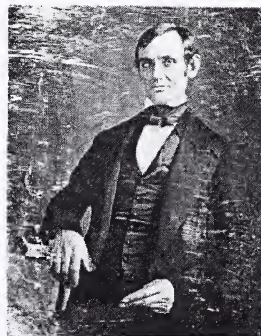
THE DAY MISS TODD BECAME MRS. LINCOLN



The photograph to the left is the Edwards' home in Springfield where the Lincolns were married. The photograph to the right is the Edwards' parlor where the marriage ceremony took place. Source: *The Women Lincoln Loved* by William E. Barton.



Mary Todd moved from Lexington, Kentucky, to Springfield, Illinois, in the fall of 1839. Not quite 21 years of age, Mary moved into the home of her older sister, Mrs. Ninian Edwards. Shortly thereafter, at a cotillion, Abraham Lincoln, 30, came up and said to her, "Miss Todd, I want to dance with you the worst way." The very next evening, Abraham called on her at the Edwards' home. Over the next few years Mary became engaged to Abraham (though not formally announced), broke up with him, entered a period of separation and misunderstanding, and finally began seeing him again (with the help of mutual friends, Mr. and Mrs. Simeon Francis). In the fall of 1842, the couple decided to be married.

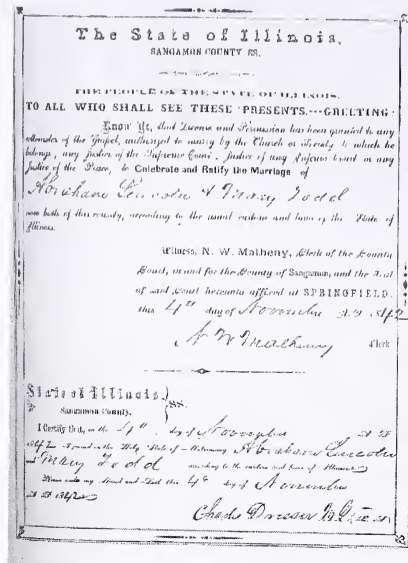


Neither Mary nor Abraham wanted a big wedding. The couple wanted a small, quiet ceremony. Their preference was to have the marriage performed at the home of Reverend Charles N. Dresser, an Episcopal minister. Reverend Dresser owned the home that the Lincolns later purchased in 1844.

Sometime before the wedding, Abraham visited Chatterton's jewelry shop located on the west side of the square in Springfield. He ordered a gold wedding ring. Mary and Abraham had agreed that the words "Love is Eternal" were to be engraved therein. (It has also been reported that the entire inscription read "A.L. to Mary, Nov. 4, 1842. Love is Eternal.")

On the morning of Thursday, November 3, 1842, Abraham dropped by Reverend Dresser's home. The Dresser family was still at breakfast when Abraham announced, "I want to get hitched tonight." Reverend Dresser agreed to the arrangement.

After leaving the Dresser residence, Abraham happened to meet Ninian Edwards in the street. He told Mr. Edwards of the plans for the marriage. Mr. Edwards replied, "No, I am Mary's guardian and if she is married at all it must be from my house." When Elizabeth Edwards was informed of the plans, it was decided that the marriage would be delayed by one day as the Episcopal sewing society was meeting at the Edwards' home that night and the supper had already been ordered.



Thus, Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd were married at the Edwards' home on Friday evening, November 4, 1842. About 30 relatives and friends, all hastily invited, attended the ceremony which was conducted by Reverend Dresser who was wearing canonical robes. Mary wore a lovely white muslin dress. She wore neither a veil nor flowers in her hair.

Mary's bridesmaids were Julia M. Jayne (in 1843 she married Lyman Trumbull who later became a U.S. Senator), Anna Caesaria Rodney, and Miss Elizabeth Todd. Abraham's best man was James Harvey Matheny, 24, who was a close friend and worked at the circuit court office in Springfield. Matheny was asked by Lincoln to be best man on the day of the wedding!

Reverend Dresser used "The Form of Solemnization of Matrimony" from a book entitled *The Book of Common Prayer According to the Use of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States* (Philadelphia, Carey & Hart, 1836). Standing behind Abraham during the ceremony was heavyset Judge Thomas C. Browne of the Illinois Supreme Court. Browne was a blunt man not accustomed to weddings. As Abraham was putting the wedding ring on Mary's hand and repeating the words, "With this ring I thee endow with all my goods, chattels, lands, and tenements," Browne impatiently blurted out, "God Almighty, Lincoln, the statute fixes all that." After a brief delay following Browne's interruption, the ceremony was completed as rain poured outside. Judge Browne was once impeached for feeble-mindedness after a hearing in the Springfield courthouse.

A week after the marriage, on November 11, 1842, Abraham wrote a letter to a friend, Samuel D. Marshall. Most of the letter dealt with legal matters, but Abraham closed the letter with the following sentence: "Nothing new here, except my marrying, which to me, is a matter of profound wonder."

MARRIED - In this city on the 4th instant, at the residence of N.W. Edwards, Esq., by Rev. C. Dresser, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, Esq., to Miss MARY TODD, daughter of Robert Todd, Esq., of Lexington, Ky.

Announcement on page 3 of the *Sangamo Journal*, November 11, 1842 (published on Fridays).

After the marriage ceremony was completed everyone was jovial and merriment followed. Supper was served on a long table with a linen cover embroidered with a turtle dove design. The wedding cake was cut and pleasant socializing continued into the evening. Finally, it was time for the newlyweds to leave. On a dark, rainy night, they left to live in the Globe Tavern, a very ordinary Springfield boardinghouse made of wood and two stories high. Sarah Beck (widow of James Beck) operated the Globe Tavern. There the young couple occupied a second floor room (only 8 by 14 feet) and ate their meals in the common dining room. The cost was \$4 a week. It was here at the Globe Tavern where the couple's first son, Robert, was born on August 1, 1843. In the fall of 1843 the Lincolns moved from the Globe Tavern and rented a small, three-room frame cottage at 214 South Fourth Street (rent: \$100 a year). Early in 1844 they purchased their permanent home on the corner of Eighth and Jackson.



EARLY RESIDENCES OF THE LINCOLNS: The photograph to the left is the Globe Tavern (Illinois State Historical Library photograph). The drawing to the right is the frame, three-room cottage where the Lincolns lived for a short time before purchasing their home at the corner of Eighth and Jackson. The drawing is from *Mrs. Abraham Lincoln* by W.A. Evans.

The photographs of the Lincolns on this page were taken in Springfield in 1846. They are the earliest known ones. For more information on the courtship of Abraham and Mary, see *Mary Todd Lincoln: A Biography* by Jean H. Baker, *The Women Lincoln Loved* by William E. Barton, *Mrs. Abraham Lincoln* by W.A. Evans, *The True Story of Mary, Wife of Lincoln* by Katherine Helm, *The Courtship of Mr. Lincoln* by Ruth Painter Randall, *Mary Lincoln: Biography of a Marriage* by Ruth Painter Randall, *The President's Wife: Mary Todd Lincoln* by Ishbel Ross, and *Abraham Lincoln: From Skeptic to Prophet* by Wayne C. Temple. Also, Irving Stone's piece of historical fiction, *Love is Eternal*, is quite absorbing.

Reverend Charles N. Dresser, the Episcopal clergyman who married the Lincolns, later taught English at Jubilee College, Robins Nest, Peoria County, Illinois. Eventually he returned to Springfield and died March 25, 1865, after a long illness. He is buried on a hill near the Lincoln Tomb. For more information on the clergymen in Lincoln's life, see *Lincoln and the Preachers* by Edgar DeWitt Jones (New York, Harper and Brothers, 1948).



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New Light on That Lincoln Marriage License

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.
To any Minister of the Gospel, or other authorised Person—GREETING.
THESE are to License and permit you to join in the holy bands
of matrimony Abraham Lincoln and
Mary Todd of the County of
Sangamon and State of Illinois, and for so doing, this shall be your
sufficient warrant.

Given under my hand and seal of office, at
Springfield, in said County this 4th
day of November 1842

N. W. Matheny Clerk

*Solomon in the name of the clerk
of Nov. 1842* *Charles Dupin*

The Original (and Genuine) Lincoln Marriage License

BY DR. BERNARD J. CIGRAND.

CONCERNING the love affair of Lincoln varying accounts have been given, and careful inquiry into his romance with Miss Mary Todd, who later became Mrs. Lincoln, appears to indicate that many of these stories are unwarranted and based upon evidence that in some instances would seem to have been forged.

After an energetic courtship in which Lincoln had as his rival his political opponent, Stephen A. Douglas, Miss Todd and Mr. Lincoln determined that they would be married on the evening of New Year's day, 1842. According to several writers Lincoln obtained a license on the appointed day, but having possessed himself of that document failed to put in an appearance and, figuratively, left the bride-to-be waiting at the church. We are told that the guests waited and that Miss Todd, in great anguish, lamented her fate while her friends were seeking the renegade bridegroom, finding him the next day.

This story may be true; indeed, it is supported by many who expected to attend a wedding that day, and correspondence is still in existence that shows that Lincoln disappointed his fiancée. However that may be, all the evidence bearing upon the subject tends to prove that Lincoln, contrary to most published accounts, did not obtain a marriage license on that New Year's day. It is more than likely that he did not seriously consider getting married at that time. It is probable that he wished to give Mr. Douglas, his rival, every opportunity. At any rate, he did not get the license, for careful search among the records of the Sangamon county clerk's of-

fice does not disclose that one Abraham Lincoln obtained such a document prior to 1840.

But what about the marriage license that gave Lincoln and Miss Todd the right to wed? In a splendid work on the life of Lincoln written by Nicolay and Hay, which was published in the Century Magazine and later put into book form, there appears what is purported to be a photograph of Lincoln's marriage license.

While investigating the subject of Illinois county seals I chanced to observe that Sangamon County did not order a design for a seal until 1849, several years after the issuance of the alleged marriage license to Lincoln. Yet the photograph of the license published in the work of Nicolay and Hay bears such a device. Further investigation showed that no such seal was used in Sangamon County at that time.

Desiring to know how a marriage license could bear a seal not in existence when the document was issued, I corresponded with relatives of the minister who performed the marriage ceremony for Lincoln and Miss Todd. I learned that this minister, Charles Dresser, wrote in the German style, using the so-called "long s" and "short s" in writing his name, while in the document purported to be the license obtained by Lincoln the double "s" is written in the ordinary English style. Additional search showed a similar peculiarity in the signature of the county clerk, N. W. Matheny, and also revealed that the date of the license, 1842, originally was 1849, a clever artist having substituted a 2 for the 9.

The particular marriage license form shown in the same picture was not adopted by Sangamon County until 1869, twenty-four years after the license is said to have

Nuptials Hurried By Mary Todd's Sudden Decision

The late Caroline Owsley Brown once asked Mrs. Edwards some questions about Mrs. Lincoln's wedding.

She replied, "Mary Lincoln's name has been in the papers entirely too much to suit her family, so I have made up my mind never to say one word about the Lincoln family's private affair. Besides," she continued, "Mary Lincoln had a very quiet wedding—she came down one morning and announced she and Mr. Lincoln would be married that night, and I can tell you I was angry. I said, 'Mary Todd, even a free Negro would give her family time to bake a ginger cake.' But I hurried around, had the relatives and intimate friends invited and they were married that night with Julia Jayne for bridesmaid."

Mr. Leigh Kimball, who attended the wedding, vouched for the fact that the cake Mrs. Edwards provided was actually warm.

Miss Todd was married in the white brocaded satin gown in which her sister, Mrs. Wallace, had been married. This gown is still in the possession of Mrs. Walter Patterson, granddaughter of Mrs. Wallace.

Mr. Leigh Kimball lived in Mr. Ninian Edwards' family and said he frequently took Miss Todd to the house of Simeon Francis to meet Mr. Lincoln, as Mr. Edwards was very much opposed to the engagement; and truly, it is not every flat boatman, who turns out a president, and the greatest man of his or any age.



MISS JULIA JAYNE, ONE OF MISS TODD'S BRIDESMAIDS.
from a photograph loaned by Mr. Jesse W. Weik. Miss
Jayne afterward became Mrs. Lyman Trumbull.

Sf N

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([LINCOLN, MARY TODD], [FAMILY: TODD], [GENEALOGY: TODD], [TODD: FAMILY], [WEDDING], [FUNERAL: LINCOLN, MARY TODD], [LETTERS: LINCOLN, MARY TODD])
MARY TODD LINCOLN. REMINISCENCES AND LETTERS OF THE WIFE OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN

By: Emily Todd Helm

McClures: September, 1898, Vol. 11, No. 5. pp. 474-480

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([HANKS, NANCY], [LINCOLN, TOM], [BIOGRAPHY], [WEDDING])
NANCY HANKS, THE MOTHER OF LINCOLN

By: William E. Barton

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([WEDDING], [LINCOLN, MARY TODD], [EDWARDS, ELIZABETH])
THE GINGERBREAD WEDDING

By: Frances Fowler Allen

The Kiwanis Magazine: February, 1956, p. 43

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([LINCOLN, MARY TODD], [ILLINOIS, SPRINGFIELD], [WALLACE, FRANCES TODD], [WEDDING], [EDWARDS, ELIZABETH TODD], [DEATH])
MARY TODD LINCOLN

By: Mary Callen Charlesworth

The Lincolnian: Vol. III, no. 2, November-December, 1984, pp. 1-5

Lf N

([BRADY, MATHEW B.], [PHOTOGRAPHS], [CIVIL WAR PHOTOGRAPHER], [GREENHOW, ROSE O'NEILL], [SPIES], [CUSHMAN, PAULINE], [LINCOLN, MARY TODD'S PERSONALITY], [WEDDING: LINCOLN-TODD])
"PHOTO BY BRADY"

By: Anonymous

Saturday Evening Post: January 7, 1939, pp. 8-9, 52-55.

